



**Blackshark**

A Trading Division of Renolia Investments (Pvt) Ltd

# CRIMEWATCH BULLETIN

## JULY 2025

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*Keeping You Safe, One Alert at a Time!*

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## INTRODUCTION

As Zimbabwe navigated the mid-year chill and the bustle of everyday life in July, an unseen battle played out in the shadows of our communities and workplaces. While many focused on business and family, criminals quietly tested security measures, exploiting moments of distraction, darkness, and isolation.

This month's Blackshark Crimewatch Bulletin brings you eye-opening, real-life stories from across the country incidents that underscore how quickly safety can be compromised and how vital vigilance remains. From residential break-ins and industrial site breaches to acts of petty theft and domestic violence, these accounts remind us all that security is not just a service, but a shared responsibility.

Read on to discover what happened this July, how these incidents were handled, and most importantly, what steps you can take to protect your home, business, and community. Because when it comes to safety, every alert counts.

### WHEN A QUIET STREET TURNED INTO A CRIME SCENE – HIGHFIELD HORROR

It was a typical Friday night in Highfield, the kind where families gather around radios or prepare for the weekend. The street lights cast a soft glow over quiet homes, and the air was thick with the promise of rest. Suddenly, that fragile peace shattered.

Four masked men burst through the iron gate of a modest home, their heavy boots pounding on the porch as the lone security guard scrambled to respond. Shouts echoed through the night as valuables were grabbed in a frenzy. Inside, terrified screams pierced the air, rippling through neighbours' windows.

One courageous neighbour, hearing the desperate cries, grabbed their phone and dialled emergency services. Racing toward the commotion, they spotted a fleeing figure and wrestled him to the ground, holding him until the police arrived. By dawn, the street was still but shaken. Glass shattered, doors battered, and trust broken.

#### ***Blackshark's Take:***

A home invasion can escalate from silence to chaos in minutes. Strong fences, alarms that alert instantly, and watchful neighbours form the frontline of defence. Families must stay connected and prepared, especially in the vulnerable late hours when criminals seek the easiest prey.

### THE INDUSTRIAL SITE BREAK-IN THAT ALMOST SUCCEEDED – SOUTHERTON ALERT

Under a crisp July moon, two Blackshark officers patrolled the perimeter of a sprawling industrial compound in Southerton. The usual hum of machinery was absent at this hour, replaced by the crunch of gravel underfoot and distant city sounds muffled by night.

Suddenly, a sharp glint caught an officer's eye a freshly cut section of the perimeter fence, edges jagged as if pried open moments earlier. Nearby, deep tyre tracks marred the soil, leading into a dark alley where shadows loomed. The officers moved swiftly, radios crackling as they sealed off possible escape routes.

Though the intruders vanished without stealing goods, their clear intent was obvious. The site's security system had been tested and, thanks to alert eyes and rapid response, had held firm.

#### ***Blackshark's Take:***

When it comes to industrial security, early detection can mean the difference between a thwarted attempt and a devastating loss. Investing in backup lighting, motion sensors, and thorough patrols ensures you see the signs before it's too late.

## THE MYSTERIOUS PACKAGE – A NEAR MISS AT A MINING OPERATION

Inside a bustling mining site office, daylight flickered through dust-coated windows as workers prepared for another long shift. Amid routine inspections, one of our inspectors noticed something odd: a casual worker clutching a small lunchbox unusually wrapped in layers of cloth.

Curious and cautious, the inspector requested a second search. Inside the lunchbox, hidden beneath sandwiches and fruit, lay a small parcel containing undeclared gold ore – a valuable commodity smuggled out under the guise of an everyday meal.

The suspect was quietly detained, and the precious cargo handed over to authorities. The loss was averted thanks to a keen eye and refusal to let routine become complacency.

### **Blackshark's Take:**

Small irregularities often mask larger risks. Rigorous screening and trusting your instincts are critical in protecting your assets and your company's integrity.

## A COMMUNITY SHOCKED BY VIOLENCE – BULAWAYO DOMESTIC INCIDENT

In a quiet Bulawayo neighbourhood, the night air was shattered by screams that echoed down narrow lanes. A domestic dispute that began with harsh words quickly spiraled into violence. Neighbours, hearts pounding, watched as a family's privacy was torn apart by conflict resulting in severe injuries.

Police and emergency responders arrived swiftly, but the damage was done: a family in pain, a community unsettled. The incident underscored the fragile nature of safety behind closed doors and the urgent need for early support systems.

### **Blackshark's Take:**

Domestic violence is often a hidden crisis until it erupts. Communities must foster openness and safe channels for victims to seek help early. Intervening before violence escalates can save lives and rebuild trust.

## LOST TRUST: THE SHOPLIFTER CAUGHT IN THE ACT – MABVUKU RETAIL

In the busy aisles of a Mabvuku retail store, shoppers bustled about unaware of a quiet theft unfolding behind the scenes. As waste bins were checked during a routine exit inspection, a Protection Assistant's sharp gaze landed on an oddly heavy black bag.

Peeling back layers of discarded cardboard, a brand-new branded jacket emerged, its price tag still fluttering. The culprit lingered nearby, unaware they had been caught in the act. With a firm but discreet intervention, the shoplifter was detained, and store managers were alerted.

Though the value seemed small, this incident exposed cracks in security protocols – cracks that, left unchecked, could drain profits over time.

### **Blackshark's Take:**

Small thefts seed larger problems. Retailers must enforce thorough exit checks and cultivate a culture of awareness among staff and customers alike.

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## **AUGUST SECURITY TIPS: STAY VIGILANT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

As August approaches, Zimbabweans prepare to honour Heroes Day and National Defence Forces Day important moments of reflection and celebration. But with holidays come changes in routine that criminals often exploit. Reduced staffing, increased social gatherings, and extended downtime create openings for security breaches. Here's how to stay one step ahead:

### **1. Strengthen Perimeter Security**

Holidays mean quieter streets and less foot traffic. Ensure all gates, fences, and locks are inspected and reinforced. Consider additional patrols or security presence during off-hours.

### **2. Review Staff Rotations and Presence**

Avoid predictable patterns that criminals can anticipate. Rotate shifts to ensure fresh eyes remain alert. Maintain a minimum essential staff on-site, especially during after-hours.

### **3. Secure Valuables and Sensitive Areas**

With celebrations in full swing, valuables can be more vulnerable. Double-check safes, locked storage, and sensitive equipment. Don't leave high-value items unattended, even briefly.

### **4. Enhance Lighting and Surveillance**

Longer nights mean more darkness. Test all lighting systems and replace faulty bulbs. Position cameras to cover dark corners and blind spots. Consider mobile patrols for larger premises.

### **5. Promote Vigilance in Your Community and Workforce**

Encourage everyone staff, neighbours, family members to report unusual activity immediately. Sometimes the smallest detail, like a strange vehicle or unfamiliar person, can prevent a serious incident.

### **6. Beware of Social Engineering Attempts**

Criminals may use holiday goodwill to trick employees or neighbours. Remind everyone to verify identities before granting access or sharing sensitive information.

### **7. Keep Emergency Contacts Handy**

Ensure quick access to police, fire, medical, and your security company's hotline. Share these numbers widely and make sure communication devices are charged and operational.

### **8. Plan for Power Outages**

Holidays sometimes coincide with scheduled or unscheduled blackouts. Have backup power solutions for alarms and lighting, and test them regularly.



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## **Blackshark's Reminder:**

*Holidays are a time to relax and celebrate but security can never take a break. Stay alert, plan ahead, and work with your security partners to protect what matters most.*

**Blackshark remains your trusted partner in security proactive, professional, and prepared. Contact us for site assessments, training, or to upgrade your security solutions.**

**Blackshark is here to protect you.**

**Contact us today for expert security solutions.**



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