

# NIBRS Tip of the Month

## Burglary versus Theft from a Building

### What is the difference between Burglary and Theft from a Building?

- The FBI definition of Burglary: "The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft."
- The FBI definition of Theft from a Building: "A theft from within a building which is either open to the general public or to which the offender has legal access."

**The key element is whether or not entry to the building was lawful.**

**For example:**

- ▶ **Burglary** typically occurs in a building or structure that the offender enters without permission.
- ▶ **Theft from Building** typically occurs in locations such as churches, restaurants, public or professional buildings, or a home in which the offender was invited.

