

Homeowners Left With Mess After Police Standoff

Police Used Tear Gas To Force Burglar Out Of Home

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GLADSTONE, Mo. -- The mess homeowner Denise Peterson found inside her [house](#) after police were involved in a 13-hour standoff at her residence has made her very upset.

"It's ridiculous," she said Tuesday. "This is Gladstone. It's not supposed to happen here."

But Peterson and her husband, Doug Peterson, said they aren't mad at police for leaving behind the damage in order to capture a burglary suspect who had barricaded himself in their house at 71st Street and North Indiana Avenue until early Tuesday morning.

"The house was trashed, but ironically it was from the tear gas that did most of the damage," Doug Peterson said. "But I realize they did what they had to do."

Doug Peterson said the suspect crawled through a basement window on Monday morning. A neighbor called police when she saw the burglar and another woman in the backyard.

Denise Peterson said someone attempted to break in just the day before, and she feared it might happen again.

"I had a bad feeling they would come back," she said.

More than 12 hours later, one tear gas canister after another was thrown into the house. Police said they found the man hiding at the bottom of a closet in the bathroom.

"We wondered what in the world he was doing in there all this time," Doug Peterson said.

The Peterson's [insurance](#) agent came by the house to survey the damage on Tuesday. Denise Peterson said the white powder from the tear gas has ruined everything, including the walls, floors and furniture.

"We have holes in all the windows," she said. "The place is trashed. It's bad."

The family said the only good news from the incident was that their three dogs, who were in the house during the standoff, were not harmed by the tear gas.