



Public Safety Newsletter

May 12, 2010

Dear Community Friends,

Night Out is now ready for online registration at <http://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout/>. This year it should be easier to register.

Warmer Weather:

During warm weather months, we often see an increase in burglary and theft. Reasons for this include:

- ❑ Windows at residences left open for ventilation when residents are not home.
- ❑ Unattended open garages while residents are working in the yard or have briefly left the home.
- ❑ Unattended personal belongings while at a park or other recreational venues.
- ❑ Unattended personal belongings visible in vehicles.

The Seattle Police Department is taking a proactive approach in alerting its citizens to these crime trends that have occurred throughout our City in recent years.

Do not allow one suspect to distract you while a second suspect enters your home and steals your valuables and cash.

Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform home repairs, or asking to gain entry into your home.

A variety of vehicles have been associated with these types of crimes including pick-up trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles.

Remember:

- ❑ Do not open your door to strangers, but rather talk through the door.
- ❑ Call 911 immediately about suspicious persons and activity. Alert your neighbors.
- ❑ Post a "No Solicitors" sign on you door. Handwrite the sign until you buy one.

If you are planning to have some work done, be sure to check their identification and do a background checks with the Better Business Bureau, Attorney General to make sure they are bonded and licensed. Legitimate businesses will not mind the wait.

Working In The Yard:

When working outside, in the front or back of your home:

- ❑ Close and lock all doors and windows. Close and lock garage and storage unit that is out of your line of sight. Be mindful of what is in plain view to anyone who may walk or drive by.

Secure Tools and Ladders

- ❑ Secure all tools, including ladders, so they cannot be used to gain entry into your home or that of a neighbor.

Make it appear that your home is occupied.

- ❑ You can do this by having timers set within the home that will turn lights on and off. You may want to consider timers for your exterior lights or photocell attachments (which activate when it gets dark and go off when it becomes light) and motion sensors.

If Away For An Extended Period Of Time

- ❑ Ask a friend or trusted neighbor to watch your home and collect your mail and your newspaper. If they see suspicious activity, they will know to call 911 for you.
- ❑ Call Police 625-5011, option #2, then option #8 and ask for a "**Request to Watch**" for your home while on vacation.

Do Not Leave Personal Belongings Unattended

Whether they are in a shopping cart or on a picnic blanket, always maintain positive control over your belongings. Never leave personal belongings unattended in your vehicle. Seattle has an incredibly high rate of theft of personal property from vehicles, particularly at public parks.

Resources To Keep You Informed

Police Blotter, <http://spdblotter.seattle.gov/>

Subscribe to SPD: Crime Blotter

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/SeattlePoliceSouthwestPrecinct>

Police Blotter, Megan Sheppard, West Seattle Herald

<http://www.westseattleherald.com/news/police%20blotter/>

West Seattle Blog, Tracy Record, Editor

http://westseattleblog.com/blog/?page_id=4988

Seattle Police Department main web page

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/>

Southwest Precinct Web-page

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/Precincts/Southwest/default.htm>

Seattle Police Crime Statistics

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/crime/stats.htm>

For **More Information** Call: **Benjamin Kinlow**, Crime Prevention Coordinator, (206) 684-7724 or email benjamin.kinlow@seattle.gov. Check out www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/southwest/prevention.htm

US Census Takers Are Coming

On May 1, 2010, census takers began going door-to-door to contact households that did not mail back their forms. By law they have the right to complete the ten questions census for every household that did not mail back their census.

The census taker will have proper Federal "U.S. Census Bureau" identification and citizens are required by law to answer the 10 questions. This does not require you to invite them into your home. You may talk with them through a window or door or step outside to answer the 10 questions.

- ❑ 2010 Census takers will not ask you for your social security number, bank account number or credit card number.
- ❑ 2010 Census takers never solicit for donations and will never contact you by e-mail.
- ❑ 2010 Census takers will not ask about your citizenship status.

WHEN SHOULD You CALL 9-1-1?

- ❑ When you have a Police, Fire or Medical emergency.
- ❑ There is a situation that could, or does, pose a danger to life, property or both.
- ❑ There is suspicious activity involving a person(s) or vehicle that appears to have criminal intent.
- ❑ Any situation that requires immediate dispatch of an officer.

Remain calm and patient while the 9-1-1 call-taker asks you questions. 9-1-1 call-takers are trained to ask specific questions that quickly determine what is wrong, and what type of assistance to send. Please stay on the line until the call-taker tells you to hang up.

When Should You Call, The Non-Emergency Number? 625-5011, option #2, then option #8

- ❑ You want to report a nuisance, such as a noise or parking complaint.
- ❑ To report a non-emergency crime - one that did not just occur, and the suspects are not in the immediate area.
- ❑ You have questions about something suspicious occurring in your neighborhood, and you are not sure it is criminal activity.

The call-taker will determine how best to handle your call. In some cases, your information will be taken and you will get a call back from the telephone reporting unit, and your report may be taken over the phone.