



Southwest Precinct Public Safety Newsletter

June 19, 2008

Dear Community Friends,

Summer Safety Tips

Most Burglaries occur during the daytime.

Here are some Safety Tips for the warm weather season. Most of these tips apply year-round, but it is good to have a reminder. Please share these tips with family and friends, because they apply to any neighborhood or city. Please check out our web page at

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/southwest/prevention.htm>. If you would like additional reading, please go to www.seattle.gov/police/prevention.

- ❑ **Make sure your trusted neighbors watch** your home in your absence.
- ❑ **Make sure your home looks & sounds occupied at all times.** Lights turned off and on by timers give your home a "lived in look" when you are away. Use motion sensors on front and back porch lights and place a radio near door/window tuned to a talk show.
- ❑ **Have good locks.** A high quality, one-inch deadbolt lock on every outside door is a basic requirement.
- ❑ **Request a free home security inspection** and be an active participant in Neighborhood Watch. A thief wants to take the path of least resistance.
- ❑ **Lock** gates, garage doors, and shed doors after every use.
- ❑ **Light up** and eliminate places an intruder might hide: the spaces between trees or shrubbery, stairwells, alleys, hallways, and entryways.

DON'T MAKE IT EASY

- ❑ **Don't leave your home unlocked**, even for a brief trip to the store or a visit to the neighbor across the street. The average burglary takes around 20 minutes.
- ❑ **Don't leave your windows open and unattended.** Open windows, especially on the first floor, extend an invitation to criminals, especially if valuables are in sight.
- ❑ **Don't hide a key outside your home.** Leave the extra key with a trusted neighbor or friend. If you have deadbolt locks you must use a key to lock the door, and can't possibly lock yourself out.
- ❑ **Don't leave things visible in your car.** Even cds or loose change will encourage some thieves to break into your vehicle.

Immediately report anything suspicious to 911, such as would be prowlers in a neighbor's yard, loitering, going door-to-door, the sound of breaking glass, or any appearance of a suspected break-in.

SUGGESTED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS:

Now is the time to check your home security and make the necessary improvements.

- ❑ Installation of **double cylinder deadbolts** (keyed on the inside and outside) **on all doors that have glass in or adjacent to them.** To provide fire exit, **leave this type of lock unlocked while at home and use a manual latch** on these doors for security.
- ❑ **Reinforcement of the doorframe** by replacing the screws in the strike plates and one screw per hinge with **3-inch wood screws.**
- ❑ **Increase visibility** by trimming back overgrown shrubbery that conceals your ground level and basement windows. Improve security by adding extra locking devices to basement doors and windows.

Free Smoke Alarms from the Seattle Fire Department

You may qualify for free smoke alarms if you:

- live in the City of Seattle
- own and live in your home
- and you are a senior citizen, disabled or live on a low income.

To request your smoke alarms or for more information, contact the Seattle Fire Dept Smoke Alarm program at (206) 386-1337 or email fireinfo@seattle.gov

NIGHT OUT, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008!

Take a few minutes to register now, go to <https://www.seattle.gov/police/nightout/swregister.htm>. Registered blocks will be granted free street closure for Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

Police Blotter, Megan Sheppard, West Seattle Herald

<http://www.westseattleherald.com/news/police%20blotter/>
This web page is update every week on Wednesday.

West Seattle Blog, Tracy Record, Editor

http://westseattleblog.com/blog/?page_id=4988
This web page is update multi-times a week.

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>

Customer Service Bureau 206-684-2489 (CITY)

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

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