



COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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FIRE
Stoppers
Children's Fire
Prevention Network
Of Washington

Fire Stoppers – Children's Fire Prevention Network

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office along with county fire marshals in the Puget Sound region have become concerned about a large number of arson fires started by juveniles.

Between 1995 and 1999 62% of those arrested in Washington for arson were juveniles (out of a total of 2,028 arrests). In 1999 alone, over \$21 million in damage was caused by arson. Between 1998 and 2003 21 lives were lost due to juvenile started fires. Many of the victims included the juvenile fire starter and their families.

The state Fire Marshal's office has formed a statewide coalition to intervene with juvenile fire starters and arsonists in order to stop them from continuing with this behavior. Under the name of "Fire Stoppers– Children's Fire Prevention Network of Washington" the Fire Marshal's office is working to expand firesetting intervention programs throughout the state.

Parents can help. Parents can help by teaching younger children the appropriate use of matches and lighters and by securing matches and lighters from them. Also, teaching the power of fire should increase your child's respect for it. A fire can get out of control in seconds, can double in size every minute, and can overcome an entire home in just five minutes.

The reasons children set fires can be varied. Most children start fires out of curiosity. Others may continually start fires because they are upset about something and may want attention. Some teenagers may start fires as a prank or on a dare from a friend. Others may do so to cover up another crime.

Most teenagers do not realize that they are breaking the law or they could go to jail. Youths 12 years of age or older can get into legal trouble for committing arson and have to appear before a judge with their parents. The range of punishments can include community supervision, community service, restitution, or detention in a juvenile facility.

The Fire Marshal's office emphasizes that no matter how serious or severe the fire setting behavior, you can get help. For more information contact:

- The Snohomish County Fire Marshal's Office- (425) 388-3557
- The Office of the State Fire Marshal- (360) 753-0435 or email karen.jones@wsp.wa.gov.
- Visit online- <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/juvenile/juvenile.htm>



Park & Ride Crime Prevention

When you park your car:

- **LOCK YOUR CAR!!**
- **KEEP YOUR WINDOWS CLOSED!**
- *Take packages, wallets, cell phones, etc. with you, don't leave them in the car.*

When walking in a Park & Ride:

- *Pay attention to your surroundings.*
- *Walk with a purpose, like you know where you are going.*

Preparedness Tips

- *Plan for maintaining contact with family members if separated by an emergency and for maintaining contact with close friends and colleagues during extended emergencies.*
- *Keep an up to date record of all contact and emergency information with you at all times.*
- *Select a location outside of your home as a family meeting point.*
- *Keep a local map with you.*

Transit Watch – CT & the Sheriff's Office Ask for Your Help

In April 2002, the Sheriff's Office signed a contract with Community Transit (CT) to provide security on its buses and park and ride lots. The Sheriff's Office has assigned 8 deputies, led by a Sergeant, to this duty. The Transit Deputies act as a deterrent against assault, drug deals, car prowls and car thefts. The deputies patrol the buses and park and rides in 17 jurisdictions.

Since the deputies have the power to arrest, they can forestall potentially violent situations and can take effective, immediate action should they see a crime in progress. After starting the program, disputes (mostly between drivers and passengers) dropped from a reported 125 to 59 for the May through December 2002/2003. At the Lynnwood Transit Center overall crime dropped by one third.

In April of this year, Community Transit and the Sheriff's Office announce a new crime prevention program called "Transit Watch". Transit Watch, a program developed by the Federal Transit Administration, encourages passengers to keep a look out for suspicious activity and report it to a CT employee, a Transit Deputy or 911 (if you have a cell phone).

In a recent press release, Community Transit's CEO, Joyce Olson, emphasized that while coach drivers try keep an eye on what is going on around them, they must pay attention to driving the coach. Olson said, "When our passengers get in-

involved, they may see security issues that they can report to the coach operator or the police, and we encourage that."

Many of what Transit Watch looks for appears to be Homeland Security related:

- Packages placed in an out-of-the-way location.
- People who set a package down then quickly leave the area.
- Unusual batteries, wires, tanks, bottles or bags that might contain chemicals.
- A suspicious cloud, mist, gas, vapor, odor or seeping fluid.
- People nearby showing signs of illness or distress.
- People who appear nervous or are carrying spray bottles or aerosol cans.
- People wearing clothing too baggy or heavy during warm weather.

Do not confront suspicious people or pick up suspicious packages!

For more information about Transit Watch call Community Transit at (425) 353-RIDE (353-7433).



Community Transit has painted this bus to encourage participation in its Transit Watch security program.



Meth Watch – Targeting the Ingredients of Addiction

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, Snohomish County Regional Drug Task Force and Snohomish County Meth Action Team have begun to target the ingredients for making meth.

Meth ingredients are legally available in many retail stores and are relatively cheap to buy. Often people who cook meth will purchase or shop lift large quantities of the ingredients at local grocery or drug stores.

Under a program called Meth Watch, county drug enforcement and prevention agencies work with



local businesses by training them about what ingredients meth cooks use. They also encourage businesses to use techniques that discourage theft or purchase of large quantities, post signs and decals warning potential meth cooks that unusual purchases of potential ingredients would be reported to police.

Snohomish County is now the 23rd county in the state of Washington to participate in Meth Watch.

Precursor ingredients often include:

- Ephedrine/pseudoephedrine (found in cold medicines)
- Ether (found in starter fluid)
- Sulfuric acid (drain cleaners)
- Lithium batteries
- Anhydrous ammonia (from fertil-

izer)

- Acetone
- Red Phosphorus (from matches)

Meth Cookers use the following equipment:

- Glass jars and containers
- Plastic tubing
- Hot plate or microwave
- Coffee filters
- Duct tape
- Propane tanks
- Funnels

In this way, local businesses can help to cut off production of this highly addictive drug and its highly contaminating production process.

Lead On America

Often neighborhoods with a meth lab in them experience high incidents of burglaries, car prowls, even shooting incidents. If you think your neighborhood has a meth lab contact Lead On America:

www.leadonamerica.org

(425) 870-6096

Lead On America works with neighborhoods to educate their homeowners about meth and how they can fight it.

If your neighborhood experiences high crime call your local Crime Prevention Officer.

Signs of a Meth Lab

You might have a Meth Lab in your neighborhood if you see the following:

- *Unusual, strong odors (like ether, ammonia or acetone)*
- *Residences with windows blacked out*
- *Renters who pay their landlords in cash*
- *Lots of traffic, people coming and going at unusual times*
- *Large amounts of antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape*
- *Unusual amounts of clear glass containers being brought into the home*

If you suspect a house in your neighborhood has a meth lab call the Drug Task Force Tip Line- (425) 388-3479.

For more information about Meth, go online to:

<http://methsummit.com/>



COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

*Snohomish County Sheriff
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**1-800-
CRIME-
13**

Sheriff Office Precinct CPO’s:

- North–
Bob Alton-
(425) 388-7974
bob.alton@co.snohomish.wa.us
- South/East–
Pat Cudinski-
(425) 744-6883
pat.cudinski@co.snohomish.wa.us

WANTED – Citizens to Become Sheriff’s Office Volunteers

The Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office seeks citizens to join its volunteer unit. This unit, currently consisting of 55 dedicated volunteers who perform a variety of valuable services including patrolling Park n Ride lots for crimes in progress, expired license tabs, and stolen vehicles; operating Street Watch that monitors speeding in neighborhoods; make house checks for vacationing citizens; assist in Project Lifesaver which helps find people with dementia or alzheimers who tend to wander; and many other useful functions in the Sheriff’s Office.

Volunteers have provided well over 11,000 hours of public service for Snohomish County.

Potential volunteers should be twenty-one years of age, a U.S. citizen and possess a Washington State driver’s license or identification card and have a reasonable amount of time to donate to the program. Volunteer applications are available at each Sheriff’s Office precinct and at the main office on the fourth floor of the County Courthouse in Everett. Anyone interested in joining the Volunteer Team is encouraged to call the Volunteer Director Cliff Johns at (425) 388-3082.