



# COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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## Boating Safety– Stay Safe While Having Fun

The hot weather in early June has unfortunately with the numerous drownings in the Puget Sound region pointed out that boating and water sports can be deadly. We want to remind you of some ways to stay safe on the water.

### River Safety:

- While boating in rivers is fun remember that rivers often have strong currents with undertows, and the water is often very cold. Also, rivers often have ledges and holes. Do not dive into a river!
- If you swim in a river or lake, swim with friends, never swim alone. If you are not a strong swimmer, wear a life vest.
- Children and adults should wear life vests. Do not rely on inner-tubes or inflatable toys for flotation. Always supervise your children in a river or lake.
- If you see someone who looks like they are drowning, Reach out to them with a branch, towel, shirt, or paddle that puts something between you and them. Or throw anything that floats to them such as a ball, ice chest, or plastic jug. Do not dive into the water after them. Drowning people often pull down on would-be rescuers.
- Watch out for hypothermia. If you experience blue lips, shivering, or confusion leave the water.

### Boating Safety Tips:

- Watch the weather, it can change suddenly. Take a portable radio with you to listen for any sudden changes in weather.
- Take extra helpful gear such as a flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map, flares, sun tan lotion, first aid kit, extra sunglasses. Put the items that need protection in a watertight pouch or container that floats.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.
- Stay warm and dry. Wear several layers of light clothing; bring a rainproof covering.
- And don't drink while boating. Half of all boating deaths are related to drinking.

Take a safe boating course. You can earn lower insurance rates with one. Agencies that offer boating courses include:

- US Coast Guard Auxiliary District 13 at <http://www.uscgaux.org/~130/boatclass/wa/index.htm>
- US Power Squadron Everett at <http://www.pipercreek.net/uspseverett/>

Also, you can find more information on boating safety at <http://boatwashington.org/>



### Operation I.D.

To increase a burglar's risk of being caught if they steal from you, engrave your driver's license number, preceded with the letters "WA" then your driver's license number then the letters "DL", onto the frames of stereos, computers, TV's, etc. Also, record the serial numbers of your valuables. For more information about Operation I.D. call your precinct Crime Prevention Officer.

### Vacation Watch— Volunteers Help Protect Your Home

One of the best ways to protect your home while on vacation is to have a trusted neighbor check on your house picking up your mail and newspapers on your front porch.

While they won't pick up your mail, you can also have a Sheriff's Office Volunteer check on your house while you are gone. Contact your precinct to sign up for this program.

## Burglaries— Don't Let Thieves Steal Your Stuff

According to the FBI, most burglaries are conducted in July, August and October, during the day and costs residents an average of \$1,381 (in 2001). Since we are coming into the prime burglary season for the year, here are some hints to protect yourself from becoming a burglary victim:

### BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS:

- When at home, keep an eye out for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood. If you see a stranger hauling items out of your neighbor's house, call 911 immediately. Write down a description of the individual(s) and the license number and description of any vehicles that they may be using.
- Be sure that your front door jam has screws that are at least 2 1/2 to 3 inches long. Screws shorter than that do not reach the 2X4 stud, allowing someone to kick open your door.
- Install a single cylinder deadbolt lock with an "I" throw in your front door and your door to your garage. And be sure to lock your house when you are gone!
- Burglar alarms can detect an intrusion while your gone.
- With your car in the garage, **do not** keep valuables, purses, credit cards, keys, etc. in your car.
- Do not leave your garage doors open if you are working in the backyard. A burglar can easily come in and go out without you noticing.
- For your windows, install auxiliary non-keyed locking devices.
- Be quick to change locks or lock cylinders. If you move to a new house or apartment have a locksmith change the locks. Also, do not keep your house key with your car keys.
- If you start receiving several suspicious "wrong number" calls or "no one at the other end" calls, call 911. Warn your family not to give information over the phone about who is at home, who is gone or how long they will be gone.
- Do not let strangers into your house unless you know they have a legitimate reason to be in it. Burglars often use any pretext to gain entry letting them "case" a target for valuables and ways to gain entry. Ask to see a repairman's id (if you want you can keep the door closed and look at the ID through a 220 degree wide viewer or peep-hole. If you are being a good Samaritan for someone who says they are having car trouble, make any calls for them while they wait outside.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash in your house. Also, keep your most valuable jewelry in a safe deposit box. If a burglar does gain entry, make your house slim pickens.



## ID Theft— An Update

**Warning from the FTC.** ID thieves often take advantage of our concerns about ID theft and fraud. On June 18, 2003, thousands of Best Buy customers received an email purporting to be from Best Buy entitled “Fraud Alert”. Using concern about a purchase and an alleged possible credit card use as bait, the email urged readers to go to a fake web site and correct the problem by entering their Social Security numbers and credit card numbers.

To prevent yourself from becoming a victim of a “Fraud Alert” fraud call the company that the fraud alert purports being from and confirm they sent the email. Check for grammatical and spelling errors. For example, an area or zip code that does not match the real phone number or address of the company maybe a clue that the email is a fraud.

If you have any questions about ID Theft or if you have become a victim go to [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft) or call 1-877-ID-THEFT.

### What to do if you become a victim.

The Washington State Attorney General’s Office has some good information on what to do if you become a victim of ID theft.

1. Report the ID theft to your local police authority. Ask them to make out a report and give you a copy of it.
2. Report the ID theft to your bank and other creditors. Ask to talk to their fraud departments. Find out what their procedures are for credit card or ID theft victims.

3. Tell the prosecuting attorney that if the person who stole your identity is found guilty, you would like the court to issue an Order Correcting Public Records to you. This is a Court Order you can use to correct public records damaged by identity theft. Show the Order Correcting Records to your bank and send a copy to your creditors so they can correct your records.
4. Send a copy of the police report to the following three major credit bureaus: Equifax– 1-800-525-6285; Experian– 1-800-888-EXPERIAN; Trans Union– 1-800-680-7289.
5. Ask businesses to provide you with information about transactions made in your name. Under state law, businesses must give you this information, but may, require proof of your identity including a copy of the police report and your fingerprints.
6. If an ID thief has made purchases or paid bills using your stolen checks or fake checks with your name, creditors or collection agencies may be contacting you for payment. Provide them with the police report and, if you have one, an Order Correcting Records. Once the collection agency has been notified that the debt is a result of an identity theft, under the law the collection agency may not continue to call you. This prevents victims from being inundated with calls for every misused check if they have had a box or book of checks stolen or forged.

For more information on ID theft go to the Attorney General’s web site at <http://www.wa.gov/ago/consumer/idtheft/>

### Obtaining A Police Report

*To obtain a police report, filed by a Snohomish County Deputy Sheriff:*

1. Write to the Snohomish County Sheriff Records. Requests must be in writing. Include the case number or other identifying information.
2. Enclose a check for \$1 and a self addressed business size envelope.
3. Mail to:  
*Snohomish County Sheriff Records  
3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 606  
Everett, WA 98201*
4. You will receive the report in 5 working days.
5. If you have any questions call records at:  
*(425 388-3839*

### In Memoriam—

*Gene Orr— 1927-2003*

*Volunteer Gene Orr past away on June 3. Gene served the community as an active Snohomish County Sheriff Volunteer from 1998 to 2001. He conducted radar patrols educating drivers about local speed limits, house checks for vacationing homeowners, and Park and Ride patrols preventing car break-ins. We will all miss Gene.*



# COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

Snohomish County Sheriff  
M/S 606 - 3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
Everett, WA 98201

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Rick Bart, Sheriff  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
M/S 606  
Fourth Floor County  
Courthouse  
Everett, WA 98201

## National Night Out– August 5, 2003



1-800-  
CRIME-  
13



Come join us as we come together and take a stand against crime!

On August 5 our neighborhoods,

and those across the United States, will lock our doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and deputies.

For the first time ever, we will be celebrating not only in individual neighborhoods, but the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a neighborhood celebration for all, with a party at McCollum Park just off I-5 at 128 St SE from 6pm to 9pm. Come and join your neighbors in taking a stand against

crime.

It will be a fun, free family event, with food, fun activities for all, displays, lots of things to see and do like:

- JP Patches!
- Free Swimming!
- BMX bikes
- Free hot dogs, watermelon, pop
- Kids Safety Super Hero Parade
- Speed Pitch; Dunk Tank
- KRKO live on-site

For more information contact: Pat Cudinski, CPO; 425 744 6883, pat.cudinski@co.snohomish.wa.us

### Sheriff Office Precincts:

- North-  
(425) 388-7939
- South-  
(425) 744-6868
- East-  
(360) 805-6770
- Crime Prevention Center (128th S.W.)  
(425) 710-0232