

COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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Inside This Issue

Child Safety Seats– Law Changes in July page 1

Vacation Security– Enjoying Yourself Without Becoming a Victim page 2

Camping Security– page 2

Mail Theft– A Continuing Problem page 3

Mail Theft Techniques– page 3

Seat Belt Safety– Click It or Ticket page 4



Child Safety Seats– Law Changes in July

In order to improve the survivability in collisions for children up to 8 years old, a new Washington State law has taken effect as of July 1st.

Car seats for children improve survivability by about 75% in collisions. Currently, 40 kids per year are killed in auto collisions in the State of Washington.

The new law requires that children under the age of 16 years must be restrained in a vehicle according to the following schedule:

- 1 year of age or under or weighing less than 20 pounds: *a rear facing infant seat.* (Best practice– At 1 year of age and 20 pounds graduate to forward facing child safety seat)
- Between 1 - 4 years old and 20 - 40 pounds: *a forward facing child safety seat.*
- Between 4 - 6 years old or 40 - 60 pounds: *a booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt.*
- 6 years old or 60 pounds and greater: *a seatbelt.* (Best practice– At 8 years of age and 80 pounds graduate to seatbelt)

The fine for not adhering to this schedule is \$86 for each improperly restrained child.

Make sure your car seat is installed properly:

9 out of 10 child safety seats are used incorrectly.

According to Deputy John Cummings, a Child Passenger Safety Instructor for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, the hardest thing for him to do is to tell parents that their dead, crippled, or hurt child is that way because the seat was not attached correctly.

Be sure to following the manufacturer's instructions carefully. For help in installing your child's safety seat:

- You can check out the Washington State Booster Seat Coalition web site at www.boosterseat.org
- New parents can take a class through Providence Everett Medical Center, Everett, WA. Classes are held on the first Thursday of each month and cost \$35. Call 1-800-554-6600 for more information.
- The following Sheriff's Office employees are able to help with installing child safety seats or with giving talks about child seat safety:

⇒ John Cummings- (425) 388-7957

⇒ Pat Cudinski- (425) 744-6883

pat.cudinski@co.snohomish.wa.us

⇒ Andy Molsasky- (425) 388-7939

Vacation Watch

The Sheriff's Office Volunteers will check on your house when you are away on vacation. To participate in Vacation Watch, call your precinct.

Camping Security

- *Avoid camping alone in isolated areas.*
- *Park your vehicle so it cannot be blocked by another vehicle in case of emergency.*
- *Familiarize yourself with local emergency locations and phone numbers.*
- *Avoid leaving your camping gear unattended.*
- *Get to know your camping neighbors - and help protect each other's belongings.*
- *Avoid walking alone at night.*
- *Carry a spare lock so you can use storage containers available at many parks.*
- *Always lock your camping trailer towing hitch so your trailer cannot be towed away.*

Vacation Security— Enjoying Yourself Without Becoming a Victim

As we enter the traditional vacation season here are some practical suggestions to prevent becoming a victim of crime:

Before Leaving Home:

- Plan your trip and give the itinerary with emergency phone numbers to a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Place identification tags on the inside and outside of your luggage. Use your first initial and last name only.
- Make a record of your credit card and travelers check numbers and keep it in a safe place.
- Arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail, packages and newspapers on a daily basis. You can also stop delivery of both for the time you will be gone. Make arrangements to have your lawns mowed and watered.
- Use timers for interior lights and radios. Make your house look "lived in."
- Purchase a prepaid phone card.

On The Road:

- Never carry large amounts of cash, use travelers checks.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Always check the interior of your vehicle before entering.
- Do not stop and assist a stranded motorist. Use your cell phone or go to the nearest phone booth and call for help.
- Never let your gas tank get below one-fourth full.

- Keep your doors locked and windows up at all times.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to the nearest populated area telephone and call the police.
- Always park in well lighted areas.
- Keep your valuables out of sight, preferably locked in the trunk. Or better yet, leave them safely at home.
- Avoid late night driving.

At the Hotel:

- Unpack and arrange your belongings so you can tell if anything is missing.
- Lock your suitcases so they can't be used to carry your property out of your room.
- Always take your cash, credit cards and car keys with you when leaving your room.
- Look through the door viewer before opening your door.
- Do not leave jewelry, cameras or other expensive items lying around your room. Use the hotel safe to store your valuables and extra cash.
- Always use the hotel's auxiliary locking devices on the doors and windows. Consider purchasing and using portable locks and alarm devices.
- When you go out, leave a light and the radio turned on.
- Take your room keys with you.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Ask if there are any parts of town you should avoid.

Mail Theft– A Continuing Crime Problem

Mail theft continues to be a major problem in Snohomish County. Mail Theft is closely related to ID theft in that the criminals are looking for cash, checks, and credit cards/credit card account numbers and social security numbers. Mail thieves will use account numbers within 48 hours and often within 2-3 hours. Some forms of check fraud include:

- Forged signatures
- Forged endorsements
- Counterfeit checks
- Altered checks

Preventing Mail Theft: The Post Office recommends the following to make it harder for thieves to steal your mail:

- Never send cash or coins in the mail.
- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery, especially if you are expecting checks, credit cards, etc.
- If you will not be home when valuable items are expected, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- Have your local post office hold your mail while you are on vacation.

- If you do not receive a check, food coupon or other valuable mail you are expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- Always deposit your mail in a Postal Service mail collection box or mail slot at your local post office or hand your mail to your letter carrier.
- Exchange work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, so that you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes).
- If you believe your mail has been stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster.

The ultimate prevention measure is to have a locking mailbox. Individual locking boxes are now available at major hardware stores. For your street or cul de sac, the Postal Service will install locking mail box units (costing \$1,300 to \$1,700). You and your neighbors may need to share the costs. The units come with 8, 12, 13 or 16 locking mail boxes, 1 or 2 parcel lockers and 1 locking outgoing mail slot. Ask your local postmaster about installing a locking mail box in your neighborhood

Have You Ordered Checks from Your Bank?

Instead of having your new, blank checks mailed to your home, ask your bank to send them to your local branch where you can pick them up personally. Mail thieves love a package full of blank checks!

Mail Theft Techniques

1. *Mail thieves will follow letter carriers at a discrete distance, checking mailboxes for mail to steal.*
2. *Mail thieves will drive up to mailboxes, placing advertising flyers in them, and at the same time taking out checks, etc. They stay in their vehicles to make quick getaways if they have to.*

COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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Everett, WA 98201*

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

 **1-800-
CRIME-
13**

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

Inside This Issue	
Child Safety Seats– Law Changes in July	page 1
Vacation Security– Enjoying Yourself Without Becoming a Victim	page 2
Camping Security–	page 2
Mail Theft– A Continuing Problem	page 3
Mail Theft Techniques–	page 3
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Seat Belt Safety– Click It or Ticket



Just a reminder that a new law took affect on June 13, 2002 allowing police to stop and ticket you if they see

that you or any of your passengers are not using seat belts. Before that date, they could only ticket you if they stopped you for another offense. The penalty is \$86 for each individual who does not wear a seat belt.

John Moffat, Washington Traffic Safety Commission Director, thinks that this new law and the recent

emphasis on wearing seat belts by state police agencies will save at least 30 lives in the state of Washington, prevent 900 serious injuries and spare the state \$51 million in unnecessary hospital costs.

Using a seat belt gives you a 70% better chance of surviving a collision than if you had not buckled up.

Also, even if your car has air bags, you still need to wear a seat belt. An air bag can kill you if you do not use your seat belt. Together, a seat belt around your body and an air bag can save your life.

