



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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CRIME PREVENTION—WORKING WITH CITIZENS FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office has established a Crime Prevention Unit to act as a liaison between the public and the Sheriff's Office.

The unit has three Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) who have a wide range of experience in crime prevention, Loss Prevention, homeless outreach, and social work.

CPO's acting as the face of the Sheriff's Office have an opportunity to get to know neighborhoods and their needs. They also can explain the Sheriff's Office to the public and can suggest to citizens who to contact in the Sheriff's Office or Snohomish County for information or help.

As experts in crime prevention, they suggest steps that homeowners and businesses can take to protect themselves from crime.

CPO's help to reduce the call load for deputies by educating the public about crime prevention, where to get information and help, and encouraging citizens to work together to prevent crime in their communities.

Sheriff's Office deputies cannot fight crime alone. They need help from citizens and other elements of society. Citizens help our deputies by giving tips



about a crime or suspicious circumstance, locking their doors to their house when they are away, stowing items in the trunk of their car and taking their key with them when they walk away, or becoming active in a Neighborhood Watch.

CPO's are a resource for the community. As a liaison with the community they can encourage prevention techniques, improve communication between the Sheriff's Office and the public, and help problem solve specific crime problems.

For tips on crime prevention check out

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

If you would like to contact a Crime Prevention Officer with a question or to speak to your community group, send an email to

crime.prevention@snoco.org



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CRIME MAPPING & STATISTICS – KNOWING WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND YOU

Knowing what is going on around you, sometimes called “situational awareness,” is an important element to keeping your community safe from crime.

You can learn about crimes occurring in your neighborhood by talking to your neighbors. Crimes that occur in communities are also often reported via Social media.

Two other sources for crime information in your community are Crime Mapping and Crime Statistics. The information for Crime Mapping and Crime Statistics is based on reports of crime given to Snohomish County 911 from citizens.

You can see a Crime Map of your neighborhood at,

<https://www.snohomishcounty.wa.gov/236/Community-Crime-Map>

For Crime Statistics for all of Snohomish County, go to,

<https://www.snohomishcounty.wa.gov/3308/Crime-Statistics-Reports>

PREVENTING CRIME – WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

Citizens have an important role in preventing crime in our society. Here are some things that you can do to prevent crime in your neighborhood.

- **Know when to call 911.** Calling 911 when you have an emergency such as a crime in progress, witness a crime, are injured, or see suspicious activity helps deputies. Call 911 if you have an emergency. Call the non-emergency number, (425) 407-3999, when you need non-emergency contact with a deputy or to follow-up on an incident.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** When you go about your day know what is going on around you. Keep your smartphone in your pocket or handbag. Look around.
- **Be involved with your neighbors.** Whether it is through a Neighborhood Watch or more informally, knowing your neighbors and helping your neighbors when the need arises encourages safe neighborhoods.
- **Take basic measures to discourage criminals.** That can include,
 - Locking your doors and windows when you are away from home.
 - Parking your car in a part of the parking lot where people can see it and in where it is well lit at night. Lock your car and do not have anything showing in it.
- Have good lighting around your house so that intruders can be seen at night.
- Control your landscaping so that your house can be easily seen from the street. Trees should be trimmed 7ft off the ground and shrubs should be pruned to under 3ft from the ground.
- **Know where you can get help.** You can get help to keep your community safe or to help yourself or a family member when needed. Police can help with crime. The Fire district can help with fire or emergency medical issues. But agencies such as public works can keep streets in drivable shape or help discourage speeding. That also improves safety in your community. Notifying the PUD when a street light is out improves safety. There are many agencies that can help for many situations.

Taking the above measures helps to keep your neighborhood safe and reduce crime in the community.

CPTED- GUIDANCE TO HELP YOU PROTECT YOUR HOME

What to do to protect your property can be difficult. However, a concept called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) can give you a way to think about your home to help you change your surroundings to enhance prevention and reduce crime. It centers on:

Natural Access Control manages entry to defined areas. Controls may be fences, gates, or landscaping. It sends the message that there is only one access point and that guests must seek permission to enter. Even simple low-level hedges or rows of bushes can effectively control and keep people out.

Natural Surveillance gives the ability to see into and out of areas. Crooks don't want to be seen committing crimes. Keep shrubs and bushes trimmed below ground level windows and trees pruned above eye level. Use outside lighting at night to enhance illumination in dark areas.

Territoriality gives the perception people get when they enter your space. Perception is an powerful crime prevention tool. Overgrown landscaping and peeling paint give the impression of apathy and indifference. Keep your home in good repair so criminals sense your ownership and your exclusive right to your property.

CPTED influences how three types of people interact with your property.

Normal Users. CPTED encourages the normal user, those people who should be in the space, to use and enjoy the space.

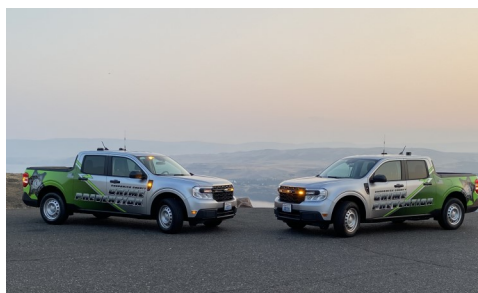
Abnormal Users. Discourage people who do not have a right to use the space from entering it and encourage them to move on.

Observers. Keep the space easily seen by observers who can report suspicious or criminal activity, enhancing security.

For more information about CPTED go to:

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/435/Crime-Prevention-through-Environmental-Design-CPTED-PDF>

If you would like to have a Crime Prevention Officer conduct a safety survey of your home or business, send an email to crime.prevention@snoco.org



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH- WHAT IT IS NOT

Sometimes mention of organizing a Neighborhood Watch makes people think that they have more to do, need lots of training, and maybe put themselves in danger.

Neighborhood Watch members do not have to walk patrols in dark places, confront crooks, or learn how to use a gun.

A neighborhood can have an active Neighborhood Watch if everyone keeps alert on what is going on around them as they go about their daily business.

You do not have to be intimate with your neighbors. You just have to know who they are so that you can distinguish what is suspicious activity in your neighborhood. For example, knowing the cars that belong in your neighborhood helps you determine if a strange car is present and maybe you should be more wary.

A Neighborhood Watch is not about being paranoid, it is about taking simple, practical measures to protect yourself and your property

PREVENTING CRIME- RESOURCES THAT HELP CITIZENS

When you and your neighbors are working to keep your community safe you may find that some problems can be taken care of by your own action. But, you may need help. And help can come from many places.

Here are some resources where you can get help,

911- Call 911 when you see or experience a crime in progress or see suspicious activity. Call the non-emergency number, (425) 407-3999, if you want to report a crime not in progress, have a noise complaint or want to report an abandoned vehicle. If you are not sure if you should call, call one of the numbers, the call taker can guide you to get the appropriate help.

Sheriff's Office- For information about preventing crime, you can email the Crime Prevention Unit- crime.prevention@snoco.org. You also can get information from Crime Prevention Tip Sheets at <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

Other helpful links include:

Online crime report-
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/301/File-an-Online-Crime-Report>

Parking and Traffic Complaint-
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/FormCenter/Sheriff-4/Parking-and-Traffic-Complaints-543>

Report Identity Theft-
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/365/Identity-Theft>

Helpful links outside of the Sheriff's Office include,

Animal Services- To report barking dogs, nuisance or dangerous animals-
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1940/Animal-Services>

Public Works- To report a pothole or other road defect go to Road Maintenance,
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/418/Road-Maintenance>

Snohomish Overdose Prevention- For opioid or fentanyl information on prevention or treatment go to,
<https://snohomishoverdoseprevention.com/>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESOURCES

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT EMAIL:

crime.prevention@snoco.org

CRIME MAPPING:

For information about crime incidents around your neighborhood checkout this link:

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/236/Community-Crime-Map>

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

NEWSLETTER INFO

EDITOR

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If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/303/Anonymous-Tips>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477