



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

JULY/AUGUST 2023

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## CRIME PREVENTION OUTREACH— CPO'S ENCOURAGING INVOLVEMENT

A central emphasis of the concept of community policing is on crime prevention. For crime prevention strategies to work, citizens need to be involved with police agencies to take away opportunities for individuals to commit crime. As Paul DelPonte, Executive Director of the National Crime Prevention Council recently put it, "Simply put, you can't have public safety without public involvement..."

One way our Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) work toward encouraging citizen involvement in preventing crime is through special events. The events allow Sheriff's Office personnel to exchange information on prevention techniques with the public.

**National Night Out.** One such annual event is National Night Out. This year National Night Out will be on the first Tuesday of August, August 1, 2023 . Neighborhoods sponsor block parties where neighbors can get to know each other.

On that date, Snohomish County will also sponsor an event at Willis Tucker Park, from 5pm to 8pm, that will include various units of the Sheriff's Office, fire district representation, and other public services.

**Street fair.** On August 19th, the CPO's are sponsoring a street fair in the 12600 block of 8th Ave W from 11am to 3pm. There will be food, bouncy houses, and a foam party. Also, various local government departments and public service agencies will also attend.

**Coffee with a COP.** Coffee with a COP lets you talk to Sheriff's deputies in an informal setting over coffee. The Sheriff's Office will be scheduling Coffee with a COP events over the next year. Keep an eye out for a Coffee with a COP event near you on the Sheriff's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/SnoCoSheriff>

CPO's also give talks to community groups. If you would like to have a Crime Prevention Officer talk to your group, send an email to

[crime.prevention@snoco.org](mailto:crime.prevention@snoco.org)



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## BURGLARY- TRENDS

- *Burglars operate during the day. This is the time when houses are most likely to be unoccupied.*
- *Local burglars frequently knock on the front door to see if anyone is at home. If the homeowner answers, they will make up an excuse like they are lost or they are looking for someone, then leave.*
- *About two-thirds of burglaries are through forced entry where the burglar uses simple tools.*
- *About one-third of burglaries are through unforced entry where entry is through unlocked or open windows and doors, and open interior and exterior garage doors.*

## BURGLARY- HOW DO BURGLARS SELECT A HOUSE TO ENTER?

With summer here, burglars tend to be out more entering houses and taking what possessions they can find. Homeowners may be away more on trips, doing errands, or in their back yards gardening. Also, they may leave windows and doors open for ventilation on hot days.

Burglars are not risk takers. As they go through a neighborhood they look for houses that give them the best chance to enter a home that they will not be detected and caught in the act. They do not want anyone around. If a homeowner is around, the range of bad that can happen can go from being seen, getting caught by a deputy, or in the most extreme case, being shot by an angry homeowner.

Some signs that a burglar might use to tell if no one is at home are,

- Checking social media for homeowners talking about an upcoming trip.
- A build up of mail at the mailbox, newspapers piled up in front of the house, a build up of packages on the front porch. Garbage is not out on a normal garbage pick up day.
- The house is too still and quiet.
- No car or truck in the driveway.

If you are planning to be away from your home, on a trip or during the day, a key element to preventing a burglary is to make your house look like there are people around. You can do that by,

- Not oversharing travel plans on social media.
- Picking up your mail and newspaper daily, Picking up packages as soon as possible after delivery. If you will be on a trip, have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspaper while you are away. You can also have a hold placed on your mail and newspaper.
- Have a trusted neighbor take your garbage can to the curb on garbage day.
- Make your house seem occupied by playing a radio in a back room. Putting it on a talk radio station makes a potential burglar think you are at home. Also, put some of your lights on timers set to turn the lights on and off.
- Have a neighbor place their car in your driveway.

## BURGLARY- MORE PREVENTION TIPS

Burglars also consider,

- **Visibility.** Is the house easily visible to a casual passerby? Can other people see the burglar breaking down a door or breaking a window? High privacy fences or sight obscuring landscaping can hide the activities of a burglar.
- **Quality of security.** Do the doors, door frames and windows look in good condition. Are there any open windows, doors, garage doors. Are there any signs saying that the house has a security system?

Ways that you can improve visibility from the street and therefore discourage a potential burglar include,

- Prune trees up to 6 feet from the ground and prune shrubs so that they are no taller than 2 feet tall.
- Be sure that any fencing in the front is 3 to 4 feet tall and gives a clear view of the house. A 6 foot cedar fence may give privacy to your home, but also gives privacy to a burglar. If you have a gate to your back yard be sure to have a lock that can be operated from inside the back yard.
- Have good lighting in the garage area to discourage car prowls at night.

You can make your house more secure by,

- Ensuring that doors and windows on all sides of your house have strong locks. Deadbolts for doors and 3 inch or longer screws in the door jam. Use Charley bars or wooden dowels in the tracks for sliding glass doors.
- Close and lock your doors and windows when you leave your home!
- If you have an alarm system, be sure to have a sign in the front warning that an alarm is on the premises. Most burglars will target another house.
- Don't have things lying around, especially ladders that would allow burglars to enter from the second floor.
- Keep your garage door closed. An open garage door invites a burglar to take anything in your garage and, if it is attached, in your house.
- Whenever you can, keep your valuables out of sight when you are not using them. Keep them in a safety deposit box or a hidden safe that is bolted to the floor

## ALARMS- SOME TIPS

*Alarms are good, but 911 often gets a call from the alarm company 10 to 15 minutes after the alarm is first tripped.*

*The best response comes from a neighbor who sees suspicious activity around your house.*

*If you have an alarm installed, monitored or not, have a speaker installed on the outside of your house. If your alarm is tripped, the siren will sound, alerting your neighbors and scaring the burglar.*

*Alarms can come with many features. A simple alarm is best especially if you use it.*

*Get in the habit of arming your alarm every time you leave your home!*

## BURGLARS- WHERE DO THEY GO? WHAT DO THEY TAKE?

When burglars enter a house, they try not to stay too long. The longer they stay, the more likely they can be discovered. Often they will be in a house for 10 minutes or less.

Burglars take cash or items that they can easily carry and sell.

The first place they look is the master bedroom, according to ADT. Here they can look for jewelry in dresser drawers. They may find some cash and maybe a firearm that is kept next to the bed.

Then they will go to the master bathroom to look for prescription medicines.

Many burglars move on to a study, library, or office where they can find electronics such as a laptop computer, gaming console, or a smartphone. They can also go through a filing cabinet to look for bank statements or credit card statements with account numbers on them.

If they have time, they may quickly go through various cabinets and drawers throughout the house to see if they can find any hidden gems that the homeowner has hidden away.

Other items they may take include consumables such as alcohol and designer handbags.

What can you do to prevent a burglar from stealing your valuables should he be able to get in? Here are a few suggestions,

- Store important documents, firearms, or jewelry in a safe that is bolted to the floor or wall.
- Consider a bathroom safe to keep your medications.
- Keep an inventory of your valuables. Serial numbers and a picture of electronics can help detectives find your property and help the prosecutor make a case in court. Also, take pictures of expensive art or kitchen appliances. Keep this information on an external drive and in the cloud to ensure accessibility.
- Don't keep jewelry in a top drawer. Place it in a plain box in a guest room or kid's room, outside of the master bedroom, where burglars concentrate their efforts.

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESOURCES

#### CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

#### CRIME PREVENTION UNIT EMAIL:

[crime.prevention@snoco.org](mailto: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](mailto: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