

In the last few months, we have seen an increase in two specific crimes- burglary (specifically of out-buildings such as sheds and garages) and auto theft. Provided below are definitions of these crimes, as well as specific prevention techniques that will help educate our community!

What is burglary? How is it different from theft?

- Burglary is defined by the Seattle Police Department as: when someone enters physical property (including a garage or shed), not his or her own, without permission, with the intent to commit a crime
- Theft is defined as: whenever property is taken

For law enforcement, there is a difference between burglary and theft and when you report a crime to 9-1-1 the language you use makes a difference! The Seattle Police Department distinguishes between two types of burglary- residential and non-residential. Residential burglary refers to the theft occurring in a dwelling, other than a vehicle (such as a private home or apartment) and non-residential burglary refers to the theft occurring in a commercial or non-residential building (such as a grocery store or clothing store).

How can we prevent burglary? Specifically, to out-buildings (such as sheds and garages)?

- All exterior doors should be strong enough to withstand force and should be secured with a deadbolt lock that has a minimum one-inch throw
- Try not to leave valuables (such as packages, electronics or cash) in plain sight through windows or doors
- The main entrance door to a home/apartment should have a door wide-angle (180 degree) viewer/peephole
- Make the home/business appear as if there is someone there by leaving lights, music and/or televisions on
- Install lights to be specifically directed and focused on entry points and vulnerable areas
- Secure and lock all windows and doors when leaving the premises- even if you plan to return within a short amount of time!
- Do not leave a spare key out
- Secure and maintain yard, patios and outdoor spaces- making sure you trim back all concealing shrubbery
- Check to ensure all garages and sheds are consistently locked with a sturdy lock
- Take inventory lists and photos of belongings in sheds and garages to ensure you know if something is missing
- Check sheds and garages regularly in order to report a burglary as quickly as possible

What is auto theft?

- Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle

What are some prevention techniques for auto theft?

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away, even for 'just a minute', please remember this is illegal in Seattle and in Washington (SMC 11.70.160, RCW 46.61.600)
- Remove remote garage door openers from vehicle
- Always lock doors and roll up windows, even if the car is parked in front of your home
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked
- If possible, park vehicle in a busy, locked, monitored and/or well-lit area
- Utilize anti-theft devices
- If possible, activate alarm

What else can you do to protect your home, business and vehicle?

- Be consistent, and always stay vigilant and observant to what is going on around you! If you see something, say something!
- Remember to always report all crimes and suspicious activity to the Seattle Police Department by calling 911
- Organize and/or get involved with Block Watch
- Request a free safety/security assessment from your Crime Prevention Coordinator

Below you will find my contact information, including email address and phone numbers. Keep an eye out for my newsletter next month, which will again focus on a specific crime/safety issue and include important prevention techniques. Below you will also find upcoming event in the SW Precinct in the next month, as well as other resources-

such as the Seattle Police non-emergency phone number, the link for our online-reporting system and the link for how to 'thank an SPD employee'.

Contact me with questions, concerns, to request my presence at a future meeting, to discuss Block Watch, to request a free safety/security assessment of your home or business and/or if you are interested in free firearm cable locks.

Email address: Jennifer.Danner@seattle.gov

Desk phone number: (206) 256-6820

Work cell phone number: (206) 471-2849

Upcoming events in SW Precinct-

- Roxhill Community BBQ
 - Saturday June 9th, 12noon- 2pm, at Roxhill Park (North end by picnic tables near SW Barton St.)
- West Seattle Crime Prevention Council Meeting
 - Tuesday June 19th, 7pm- 8:30pm, at the SW Precinct (2300 SW Webster St)
- West Seattle Block Watch Captains Network Meeting
 - Tuesday June 26th, 6:30pm- 8:30pm, at the SW Precinct (2300 SW Webster St)
- Think Green- Neighborhood Recycling & Reuse Event
 - Saturday June 30th, 9am- 1pm, on the SW corner of the West Seattle Junction Association Parking Lot (4541- 4543 42nd Ave SW)

Other resources-

- Seattle Police Department Non-Emergency Phone Number: (206) 625-5011
- Seattle Police Department's Website: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/>
- Seattle Police Department's Online Crime Reporting: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/need-help/online-reporting>
- Seattle Police Department's 'Thank An Employee': <https://www.seattle.gov/police/about-us/contact-us/thank-an-employee>
- Contact information for other SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators:
 - North Precinct- Mary Amberg- Mary.Amberg@seattle.gov
 - East Precinct-
 - West Precinct- Barb Biondo- Barbara.Biondo@seattle.gov
 - South Precinct- Mark Solomon- Mark.Solomon@seattle.gov