

As the summer draws to an end, the SW Precinct continues to see increases in a few crimes, most notably- burglary, and auto theft. Please review the below crime prevention newsletter, focused on the prevention of burglary, auto theft and car prowling.

Please keep in mind that I do offer free safety/security assessments! Contact me directly for scheduling.

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?

- 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
- All windows and doors should be shut and locked (especially at night)
- 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 to ensure you know if something is missing
- Check sheds and garages regularly in order to report a burglary as quickly as possible
- Be cautious when using window air conditioners to ensure window is fully secure

What is auto theft?

- Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle

What is a car prowling?

- Unlawful taking of motor vehicle contents or parts

What are some prevention techniques for car prowling and auto theft?

- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away, even for 'just a minute' to warm it up, please remember this is illegal in Seattle and in Washington (SMC 11.70.160, RCW 46.61.600)
- Remove remote garage door openers, key fobs and key cards 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
- Items you don't want to take with you should be stored in the trunk, or out of sight
- Put items in the trunk before you arrive at your destination
- Even non-valuable items should be hidden from view (such as electronic charging cables)

- If possible, park vehicle in a busy, locked, monitored and/or well-lit area
- Utilize anti-theft devices such as steering wheel clubs (Please contact me directly for links/suggestions for where to purchase these)
- If possible, activate alarm

What else can you do?

- Be observant! If you see something, say something!
- Remember to always report all crimes and suspicious activity to the Seattle Police Department by calling 911 for in-progress crimes, or utilize the non-emergency number/online reporting if appropriate (see below)
- Organize and/or get involved with Block Watch

Another very important prevention technique for residential property crime is getting to know your neighbors and starting a Block Watch. Block Watch is one of the most effective crime prevention tools. Block Watch brings residents and law enforcement together to improve safety and prevent crime. Safety improves when neighbors watch out for each other by reporting suspicious activity and in progress crimes to 9-1-1. Crime prevention occurs when the opportunity for crime is removed and neighbors work together towards a safer neighborhood. If you are interested in setting up a Block Watch for your area, have questions and/or would like to learn more about this program- please feel free to contact me.

Below you will find my contact information, including email address and phone numbers. Keep an eye out next month for a crime prevention bulletin! Below you will also find additional SPD and City of Seattle resources.

Email address: Jennifer.Danner@seattle.gov

Desk phone number: (206) 256-6820

Cell phone number: (206) 471-2849

Additional SPD resources-

- Seattle Police Department Non-Emergency 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>
- Seattle Police Department's Crime Dashboard: <http://www.seattle.gov/police/information-and-data/crime-dashboard>
- Contact information for other SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators:
 - North Precinct- (vacant at this time) Please contact Sergeant Martin Welte- Martin.Welte@seattle.gov
 - East Precinct- Joseph Elenbaas- Joseph.Elenbaas@seattle.gov
 - West Precinct- Barb Biondo- Barbara.Biondo@seattle.gov
 - South Precinct- Mark Solomon- Mark.Solomon@seattle.gov

Other City of Seattle resources-

- Find It Fix It: <https://www.seattle.gov/customer-service-bureau/find-it-fix-it-mobile-app>
 - Customer Service Bureau Main Line: 206-684-CITY (2489)
- Seattle Parks Department: <https://www.seattle.gov/parks>
 - 24-Hour Maintenance Request Line: 206-684-7250
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT): <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation>

- Report a problem: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/report-a-problem>
- Parking Enforcement: <https://www.seattle.gov/police/about-us/about-policing/parking-enforcement#:~:text=Parking%20Enforcement%20Main%20Line%20206%2D386%2D9012>
 - Main Line: 206-386-9012
- Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI): <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci>
 - File a Complaint Online: <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/make%20a-property-or-building-complaint>