



Southwest Precinct Public Safety Newsletter

July 3, 2007

Dear Community Friends,

4th of July Public Safety Message

The Seattle Police Department and the Seattle Fire Department would like to remind the public that there are no legal fireworks in the City of Seattle. The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks are prohibited.

Summertime Security Tips

During warm weather months, we often see an increase in burglary and theft. Reasons why:

- Windows at residences are left open for ventilation when residents are not home.
- Unattended open garages while residents are working in the yard or have briefly left the home.
- Unattended personal belongings while at a park or other recreational venues.
- Unattended personal belongings visible in our vehicles.

Here are some summer-time safety tips to help reduce incidents of burglary and theft.

Close And Lock Windows; Limit How Far They Can Be Opened

When you are away from home, close and lock your doors and windows. While at home, you should only leave windows open enough for ventilation, but not wide enough for someone to gain entry, use a dowel for sliding glass windows cut to allow the window to open no more than 4". For double hung windows, consider sash pins. Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which will prevent the window from being opened too far.

Lock Your Doors

Some residents go to the store for a short trip and leave their doors open and/or unlocked. They returned to find their home burglarized. Lock your doors and windows anytime you leave home. Do not make it easy for the burglars.

Working In The Yard

When working in the yard in the front of your home, do not leave your back door open and/or unlocked. If you have a garage or storage unit that is out of your line of sight, be mindful of what are you showing in plain view to anyone who may be walking or driving by. Lock all doors.

Do Not Leave Personal Belongings Unattended

Whether they are in a shopping cart or on a picnic blanket, always maintain positive control over your belongings. Never leave personal belongings unattended in your vehicle. Seattle has an incredibly high rate of theft of personal property from vehicles, particularly at public parks.

Home Security – What Works

A practical and effective security tips to help secure your home from residential burglary and to make your neighborhood less attractive to the potential burglars.

Recommendations Regarding Sliding Windows & Doors:

- The design of some sliding doors and windows allow the slider to be removed from the track at the ¾ to fully opened position. They should not be able to be removed from a partially opened position. Installing flat head screws in the upper track of the window can help. Install the screws high enough for the window or door to slide freely, but low enough to prevent the window from being lifted up and out of the track from a partially opened position.
- Use dowels for sliding windows and doors. You can use two sizes of dowels, one for when the window is in the closed position and one to allow the window to be opened enough for ventilation (no more than 4") but not allow someone to force the window open further to gain entry. We still advise that you close and lock all windows and doors for any time you area away from your home.
- Where you have single pane glass windows, consider replacing them with thermal insulated, double pane windows. They are better for security as well as the energy efficiency of the home. Yes, this is a high cost fix, but it is worth it.

Police Blotter, Megan Sheppard, West Seattle Herald

<http://www.westseattleherald.com/news/police%20blotter/>

This web page is update every week on Wednesday.

Seattle Police Department main web page

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/>

Southwest Precinct Web-page

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/Precincts/Southwest/default.htm>

Seattle Police Crime Statistics

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/crime/stats/pur170/200612y.htm>

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