



# Partners In Crime Prevention

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Snohomish County

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## Burglary and Drugs– Two Common Problems

Two of our articles in this issue are somewhat related– burglary prevention and drugs. Many cops will tell you that there is a direct relationship. Most people addicted to drugs need to steal to buy the drugs that they need to feed their addiction.

Burglaries are frustrating because most burglars try to steal when no one is around– during the day in housing developments and at night from businesses. Usually there are no witnesses. Victims arrive on scene to see a mess and missing property. There is often no information that deputies can use to arrest the bad guy or to recover the property. The victim not only feels violated, but there is no justice, loss– sometimes of prized possessions– and expense to replace the stolen items.

Our first article points out a lesson that crime prevention professionals teach every day– keep a comprehensive list of your more valuable possessions. That includes written descriptions, pictures, and serial numbers. Engrave appropriate items with your driver's license number. Keep copies of your list at home and in a place away from your home such as your bank's safe deposit box.

Often a property crime detective's best lead is a good description of your stolen property. If your best efforts at prevention fail, you can be very helpful in catching the burglar and recovering your property by providing good descriptions of your stolen property.

Many drugs have been abused for decades. Methods of manufacture, delivery and use may evolve. But, abuse still poses a danger for the abuser as well as their family, friends, and community.

Being aware of drugs can help each of us contribute to its control, if only in a small way; reporting activity around drug houses, steering youth away from the drug lifestyle, encouraging a relative to quit abusing drugs.

*Steve Moller  
Editor*



**DRUNK DRIVERS BREAK HEARTS**

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## Burglary Prevention Tips

*The best way to prevent a burglary at home is to discourage burglars from entering your house:*

- *Alarm signs deter most burglars.*
- *Triple pane glass is more difficult to break.*
- *3 1/2 inch screws holding the lock faceplate to the 2X4 stud makes it harder to kick in your door.*
- *A "Charlie Bar" on your sliding glass window makes it more difficult for a burglar to enter your house.*

## Car Prowl Prevention Tips

- *Don't leave anything in your car!!!!!!*
- *Install motion sensing lights around your house and garage.*
- *Park your car in the garage and close the garage door.*
- *Don't keep your home garage remote in your car when you park it outside of your house.*

# Burglary– Some Notes on Prevention

Detective Sergeant Jim Upton, of the South Precinct Property Crimes Unit, spends much of his time reading stacks of reports. Reports filed by deputies and citizens about burglaries, car prowls and vandalism. He looks for information that his detectives can use to catch a crook with a good case that the prosecutor can use to take to court.

He looks for good descriptions of property, serial numbers, and pictures. Reports with information that may be useful in an investigation get passed on to one of his detectives. Those that do not have useful information are set aside.

When a citizen calls 911 to report a burglary or car prowler they are given a choice of filling out a mail in form (which can be filled out online at the Sheriff's Office web site) or have contact with a deputy. To Sergeant Upton's thinking, if someone has been through your house its good to have a deputy to come out and have a look at the scene.

Sergeant Upton also likes reports of suspicious activity (suspect information is always appreciated). "Most that we catch (burglars and car prowlers) are from calls about suspicious activity."

The better the information about the property the better the chance to catch the crook and maybe recover the property. He loves serial numbers, good descriptions and driver's license numbers. His team can search a nationwide database of property in pawnshops by

serial number. The detectives makes the rounds with local pawn shops with serial numbers and pictures of jewelry.

They also check Craig's List and ebay where burglars often try to sell their ill-gotten inventories. Flea markets and garage sales are often places to sell stolen property.

Sergeant Upton is big on Operation ID (where you engrave your driver's license number on certain property). He likes it when victims can give him a listing of stolen property. He recommends making a simple database of your property in an Excel spreadsheet. He also suggests making a backup copy on a disk and keeping it in a safe deposit box at your bank for when the bad guys steal your computer. And he thinks pictures are great!

He also likes large safes bolted to the floor. There you can put sensitive documents like your bank account statements, supply of checkbooks, charge cards, and tax information. You can also put birth certificates, passports and any other information that could be used by an ID thief. Small valuables can also be stored in a safe like jewelry, expensive watches, cameras, etc.

Sergeant Upton would rather that you do what you can to prevent crime. But, if you are a victim of a burglary or car prowler his team can help you best if you can give them the best description of your property that you can.



## DRUGS– *An Update*

The Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force (SRDTF) targets mid to high level drug dealers to reduce drug availability and trafficking in Snohomish County.

The 5 drugs that the task force currently encounters the most are marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and oxycontin.

- **Marijuana**– The most widely used illegal drug comes from US, Mexican (Mexican Red/Brown), or Canadian (BC bud) sources. THC gives the high that marijuana users look for. THC is found in all parts of the marijuana plant.
- **Methamphetamine**– A highly addictive stimulant, meth is made in illegal laboratories. In the early 2000's Snohomish County had many meth labs, with the task force shutting down 74 per year by 2004. Currently, it shuts down 3 to 4 labs a year. Manufacture and distribution of meth has migrated to Mexican gangs.
- **Cocaine**– Cocaine is distributed as a crystalline powder or as chips, chunks or rocks (called crack). It give immediate euphoric effects including energy, reduced fatigue, and mental clarity.
- **Heroin**– Heroin can be snorted/ sniffed, injected or smoked. Use can create a sense of euphoria by the user. With regular use, the

user develops tolerance causing the user to use more heroin to get the same effect.

- **Oxycontin**– Oxycontin is a prescribed drug that relieves moderate to severe pain. It's use can be habit forming. Since it can be found in medicine cabinets at home, it can be easily stolen. Sometimes robbers will steal the oxycontin inventory of pharmacists. Teens may view oxycontin as a “safe drug” since doctors prescribe it.

**Drug trends**– The task force sees the following drug trends coming to Snohomish County:

- **Honey/Butter**– a manufacturing method that collects THC from marijuana, freezing then whipping the THC to make a product that is 98% pure. Most marijuana now is 40% pure.
- **Crystal meth**– This form of methamphetamine hydrochloride comes in clear chunky crystals resembling ice. It can be inhaled by smoking.
- **Grape or Strawberry meth**- Meth flavored with grape or strawberry flavoring to appeal to younger customers.



### SRDTF Web Site

*For more information about drugs in Snohomish County go to-*

<http://www.srdtf.org/>

### Drug Tip Line

*If you have any information about drug activity in Snohomish County you can call the following number to report it:*

425-388-3479

*Or go to*

[http://www.srdtf.org/  
contact](http://www.srdtf.org/contact)

*and fill out the online form*



# CERT– Training Citizens for Disaster

When disaster comes to Snohomish County, citizens expect to get help from government agencies. For major disasters fire, police, EMT and search and rescue resources will be stretched thin. Whole neighborhoods may not see help for days or even weeks.

Since 1997, the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management has trained 2,500 to 2,800 citizens to cope with disasters through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

CERT:

- Teaches what to expect in emergency response during disasters
- Educates about the need for mitigation and preparedness
- Provides training in life saving skills
- Provides training in leadership and team building

CERT training, which encompasses 20 to 24 hours of training, is sponsored by DEM and many of the fire districts in the county. If you would like to become CERT qualified send an email to:

[dem@snoco.org](mailto:dem@snoco.org)

## Flood Preparedness Checklist

Flooding is a yearly problem for some areas of our county. If you live in an area prone to flooding here are some things you can do before a flood to protect yourself and your property:

- Learn your community's warning signals.
- Determine what to move up, out or away, then do it: farm animals, feed supplies, furniture, clothing, medical equipment/ medicines, important family papers, jewelry, electronics, food, etc.
- Even if you don't have flood insurance, photograph or videotape your possessions.
- Create a family emergency evacuation plan and practice it with every family member.
- Tell friends and relatives where you will be in case of evacuation.
- Know how to turn off utilities, such as gas, propane, electricity and water.
- Secure propane and other fuel tanks so they don't float away and cause danger.
- Set aside in clean, plastic containers one gallon of drinking water per person, per day for seven days.

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1-800-  
CRIME-13

### Tip Lines:

Phone:

425-388-3845

Sheriff's Website:

[www.co.snohomish.wa.us](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us)  
[/SheriffRpts/](#)  
[AnonymousTips/](#)  
[default.htm](#)

### Crime Prevention Coordinators:

#### Office of Community Partnerships-

[neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org)

#### North Precinct-

Sgt David Bowman  
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