



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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## CALLING 911—A TIMELY CALL CAN MAKE US ALL SAFER

For years now we have been hammered to call 911 when we have an emergency. In Snohomish County, we can also call 911 when we see something suspicious, or even to contact Animal Control. But, 911 is essential when you need police, fire, or emergency medical aid.

No brainer situations to call 911 of course can be a serious traffic accident, if you see an assault in progress, you are a victim of a robbery, your car is stolen or broken into, you discover that your home has been burglarized.

With the case of your burglarized house, often we discover the burglary after the thieves are long gone. It is still important to call 911 and make a report to a deputy. You can give a list of missing items to a deputy with descriptions, pictures, serial numbers, etc. (you have recorded your household inventory and placed it in a safe place haven't you?). You can obtain an incident number for your claim to your insurance.

There have been times that when homeowners have come home, to find a crook in their house or scrambling away from their house. If this happens to you, this is the time to collect yourself out of your shock and call 911 right away. In at least one recent burglary, the homeowner caught a burglar in their house and waited a half hour to call 911. When the deputy arrived, there was no opportunity to catch the bad guy.

If you have a "burglary in progress" your 911 call takes higher priority over many other calls. Deputies love situations where they can catch the bad guys in the act!

If you encounter a burglar at home, your first priority should be your own safety! But, call 911 immediately. Let the 911 call taker lead you through the information that deputies will need. That will include what happened, your location, your name, and a phone number where you can be contacted. Try to have as complete of a description of the suspect (s) as you can and a good description of any vehicles that might be associated with them (see side bar on page 2).

You have no need to apologize for calling 911. Your call is important no matter how small the subject might seem. SNOPAC, the 911 agency that the Sheriff's Office uses is well staffed to handle heavy call loads. If they, or the Sheriff's Office deputies are busy, SNOPAC will let you know. But, making that timely call gives our deputies an opportunity to catch a crook that they might not have had otherwise.

*Steve Moller*

*Editor*



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## SUSPECT DESCRIPTIONS- IMPORTANT TO CATCH THE BAD GUYS

*A good description is very helpful to deputies. Some things to try to report include:*

### Suspect-

- Gender
- Approximate age
- Race
- Clothing description
- Hair color and style
- Eyes (if possible)
- Tattoos, scars or birthmarks
- Weapons. Gun, knife, stick. Remember, a walking cane could be used as a weapon.
- If the suspect is on foot, where was he/she last seen and what direction was he/she going?
- Name – If you know whom the suspect is, let us know.

### Vehicle-

- Make
- Model
- License plate number
- Color
- If you don't know what model, is it a 2-door, 4-door, pick-up, SUV?
- How many occupants?
- Last direction of travel.

## CONTAINMENT- CATCHING THE BAD GUYS

From time to time Deputies will get calls from SNOPAC dispatchers of a crime in progress. A homeowner may have interrupted a burglar in their house coming home from work in the afternoon or homeowners may have heard car prowlers in their driveways in the early morning. A timely call to 911 gives deputies a chance to catch a bad guy. And deputies like to catch bad guys!

If deputies are searching for a suspect or suspects in a specific area, they will set up a “containment” area. This is a squared off area with deputies posted on the perimeter. The idea is to limit the movement of a suspect until he/she can be apprehended.

Often one or more canine units will search the area for the suspect. The dog(s) will look for a scent given off when human’s adrenalin is up.

To increase the adrenalin deputies along the perimeter will try to scare a suspect by keeping their lights on and occasionally sounding their sirens in a “whoop, whoop.”

Ideally, the suspect will hunker down someplace and try to hide. The canine unit can then find the suspect. If the suspect stays on the move, the canine can still catch him/her or they may run into a deputy on the perimeter.

Containment areas can be set up day or night, in rural areas or in housing developments.

Frequently, deputies will find themselves searching for suspects in a series of home back yards. The canine unit (dog and its handler) plus 2 or 3 deputies will go through any place that the dog leads them.

Often, homeowner’s challenge deputies wanting to know what they are doing in their back yard.

If you see one or more deputies in your back yard, please stay in your house. If you want to know what’s going on go to [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com) a few days after the incident.

Generally, deputies ask that if you are in a containment area, or in the vicinity of a police activity please stay inside for your safety.

If you are in a containment area, sit by your window and look out. If you see anything suspicious on your property or around you call 911. There was an incident when deputies were searching for a suspect. A homeowner in the neighborhood noticed that her back shed door was closed when it usually was open. She called 911, deputies came to investigate and found their man in the shed.

## PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE- HOLDING CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE

In Snohomish County, the Sheriff's Office investigates crime and apprehends criminals and suspects. The Prosecutor's Office represents the county in charging suspects with crimes before the court.

The Prosecutor's Office is organized in three divisions:

**Criminal Division.** The Criminal Division is the largest division in the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office and is organized into several different units:

**Felony** - The Felony Unit processes all adult felony referrals from county law enforcement agencies in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas. This unit handles case files for non-violent crimes, violent crimes, drugs, and special assault (for child abuse cases and adult sexual offenses).

**Misdemeanor** - The Prosecutor's District Court Unit processes all misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor cases referred by the County Sheriff, the State Patrol, all state agencies, and some cities who have contracted with the county for misdemeanor prosecution services.

**Juvenile** - The Juvenile Unit processes all law enforcement referrals, both felony and misdemeanor, within the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Snohomish County for offenders under 18 years of age.

**Pre-Prosecution Diversion** - This program provides an alternative to court trial and incarceration for a limited number of quali-

fying first-time offenders.

**Victim Witness** - This unit provides assistance and support to victims and witnesses of the most serious crimes during their involvement in the criminal justice process. Victim Witness also facilitates the establishment of restitution, property return, and other post-prosecution concerns.

**Civil Division.** The Civil Division provides legal counsel to all Snohomish County elected officials, department heads, and numerous county agencies and departments. As an in-house law firm for the county, it works closely with county agencies and departments in solving legal problems. It issues formal written opinions and memoranda, providing general day-to-day legal advice, and handles civil litigation to which Snohomish County may become a party, whether as a plaintiff or defendant.

**Family Support.** The Family Support Unit provides the following legal services: judicial establishment of paternity and child support, enforcement of support orders when parents fail to pay court-ordered child support, modification of existing child support orders, representation of state interest in private dissolution actions when tax dollars have been expended to support a child.

## PROSECUTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact info for the Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys who spoke at the March Precinct Partnership meetings:

*East Precinct*

*Mona Clarkson*

425-388-3417

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*Bob Hendrix*

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*South Precinct*

*Janice Albert*

425-388-3316

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

## STATE SENTENCING GUIDELINES

Link to the Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission:

<http://www.sgc.wa.gov/>

Form showing how offenses are "scored" and the sentencing range that applies:

<http://www.sgc.wa.gov/PUBS/Interactive/formlinks.asp>

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE VOLUNTEERS- YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

As the county budget continues to be cut, the Sheriff's Office depends even more on the help of volunteers. Did you know that Sheriff's Office volunteers deliver the mail between the county courthouse and all three precincts, every week day? Volunteers also provide a valuable service through Citizen Patrol. These volunteers serve as extra eyes and ears for the deputies, and patrol in the black and white Citizen Patrol vehicles to help deter crime. Others volunteers perform clerical duties or work with Project Lifesaver, a truly life-saving program that helps to quickly locate and rescue those with a tendency to wander. There's a task for every interest, and you can work from the precinct nearest you.

Screening for the Sheriff's Volunteer Program is more thorough than for most organizations. That's because our volunteers often have access to Sheriff's Office information and will sometimes hear or see material that is confidential. But once you're part of the Volunteer Program, you know you're working with an outstanding group of people!

For more information, contact Volunteer Director Ray Baron at 425-388-3082 or email [ray.baron@snoco.org](mailto:ray.baron@snoco.org).

Volunteer activities, include:

**Citizen Patrol-** which includes disabled parking enforcement, radar speed checks, Park & Ride lot patrol, stolen vehicle search, and other non-hazardous patrol duties.

**Clerical or data processing work-** for those who prefer an office environment.

**Project Lifesaver-** which provides electronic transmitter bracelets to help us quickly locate and rescue those with a tendency to wander, such as people suffering from Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, Autism, and other conditions.

**Crime prevention activities-** including Kid Care ID, and participation at events such as National Night Out and the Evergreen State Fair.

For more information about the Volunteers go to:

<http://sheriff.snoco.org/Recruiting/Volunteer.htm>

## CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATORS

### OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org

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## 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

## TIP LINES



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://www.snoco.org/app/ssh/anonymoustips/>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477