



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

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## SITUATIONAL AWARENESS— KNOWING WHAT IS GOING ON

Knowing what is going on around you is important to successfully staying away from or handling threats to your person or your property. Police emphasize situational awareness, knowing what is going on, often in personal safety training to help individuals being victimized in crimes such as assaults or robberies.

In the context of personal safety, this includes using all of our senses to know what is going on around us. Personal safety trainers would discourage looking at your smartphone while you walk down the street.

Another aspect of situational awareness is assessing the situation around you. Most important is determining if something is unusual near you. This assessment can help you determine if there is a threat to you in the near future.

Finally, with your knowledge of the situation and your assessment, you can decide on an action. This can be as simple as avoiding something blocking your way, such as a light pole, or avoiding a more dangerous encounter.

We can have situational awareness beyond our immediate surroundings with our computers and smartphones. Local, national, and international news can be pushed to us through news web sites and apps. Some of us might use social media such as Facebook or Twitter for our news, including neighborhood news. But beware, natural disasters are events that can develop disinformation and uncertainty.

Receiving alerts about natural disasters from your local government can help you receive credible information about a situation and cope with severe weather, landslides across roads, brush or wildfires, or flooding.



Natural disasters, like the Oso Landslide in March of 2014, can happen anywhere in Snohomish County.



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## ALERTS ON TWITTER-

*Receiving alerts directly from Snohomish County on your smartphone is an important basic measure to stay informed.*

*If you are on Twitter, here are some other local, state, and national agencies that can help you keep up in case of an emergency near you:*

*Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management-  
@SnoCo\_DEM*

*Snohomish County PUD  
- @SnoPUD*

*Snohomish County Sheriff's Office- @SnoCo Sheriff*

*Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue-  
@SnoRegionalFire*

*South County Fire-  
@SouthSnoFire*

*FEMA Region 10-  
@FEMARegion10*

*Washington State Department of Natural Resources Wildfire-  
@waDNR\_fire*

*Washington State Emergency Management Division-  
@waEMD*

## PUBLIC ALERT RESOURCES- KEEPING INFORMED

Receiving alerts about a nearby landslide, flooding, wildfire, earthquake, or storm is an important function to being prepared.

Snohomish County offers SnoCo Alerts to act as a kind of county early warning and notification system to the public.

When you sign up for SnoCo Alerts you provide your zip code and address to allow the alerts to be tailored for your location. You can select the types of notifications that you want to receive and how you want to receive them. You can receive alerts for severe weather, traffic incidents and road closures, and local emergencies such as gas leaks, missing persons, police activity, and other incidents that might affect your safety.

Smart911 powers SnoCo Alerts. Smart911's original service allows citizens to voluntarily provide information that might be important to first responders in an emergency. This could include medications, medical conditions such as asthma, heart conditions, mental conditions, Alzheimer's/dementia or medications. Information about access to your property, pictures of your house, descriptions of your family, where utility shut offs are located, vehicle descriptions, and emergency contacts can also be provided.

With Smart911, you set up an account with a "Safety Profile" that contains the emergency information that you would want to provide to 911 during an emergency. When you call 911, the system recognizes your phone number then dis-

plays your emergency information automatically on the call taker's screen. Smart911 points out that this can be especially helpful in situations when you are unable to communicate or the situation makes it unwise to communicate.

Through Smart911, Snohomish County 911 has the capability to send and receive text messages. Also, through Smart911, you can give 911 permission to ping your cell phone. This can be important if you cannot communicate, or if you are not sure exactly where you are. This capability is often limited to a few emergency circumstances that are governed by strict protocols.

The information that you provide is secure. It is maintained in a national database that is not shared except when you call 911.

To sign up for Smart911, go to:

<https://www.smart911.com/>

To sign up for SnoCo Alerts, go to:

<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=snohomish>

## SPIDR TECH- UPDATING YOU WHEN YOU CALL 911

In July of this year, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office announced a new service that is intended to improve communications with Snohomish County citizens when they call 911 to report a crime or suspicious activity.

The system, created by SPIDR TECH, can keep you informed on the status of your call. For example, if the responding deputy is delayed in arriving to take a report.

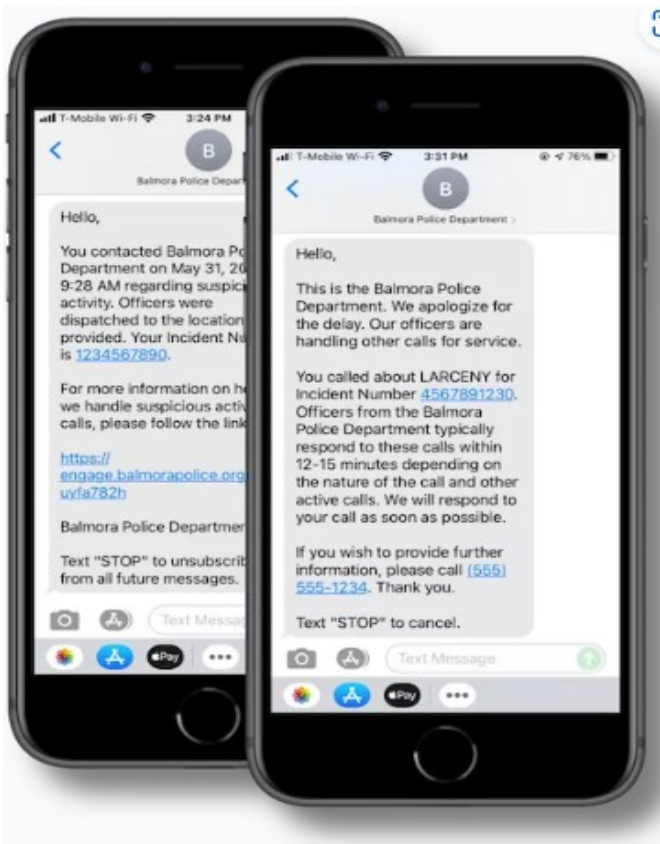
The system can also provide information such as incident numbers and links for more resources.

It can send text messages or emails.

The messages are automated saving the Sheriff's Office time and money when it communicates with 911 callers. This is especially important now since the Sheriff has had to move some specialty unit personnel to fill patrol positions.

Finally, the SPIDR TECH system can automatically send a survey to 911 callers to get feedback from the citizen on how their interaction went with Sheriff's Office deputies.

As posted on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page: "We are excited to launch this software throughout unincorporated Snohomish County," said Sheriff Adam Fortney. "This is one more layer of transparency that will give us the opportunity to communicate directly with community members and provide them real-time information and updates. At a time when it is crucial for law enforcement to engage with the public, this new technology will enhance our ability to keep residents informed, receive instant feedback and better serve the residents of Snohomish County."



Samples of text messages from the SPIDR TECH web site.

## ALERTS ON FACEBOOK-

The following agencies are also on Facebook:

Snohomish County PUD - <https://www.facebook.com/snopud>

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office- <https://www.facebook.com/SnoCoSheriff>

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue- <https://www.facebook.com/SnoRegionalFire>

South County Fire- <https://www.facebook.com/SouthCountyFire>

Washington State Emergency Management Division- <https://www.facebook.com/WashEMD>

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT- HELPING US THROUGH NATURAL DISASTERS**

As citizens, while we focus a lot of our attention on crime and preventing crime, another important aspect of situational awareness is being aware of potential dangers from our natural environment.

The Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) coordinates the county's efforts to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate natural disasters. An important function for DEM educating the public and local city and county officials on potential natural disasters, how to prepare for them and respond to them.

While living in Snohomish County we enjoy the beauty of our landscape and the natural recreational opportunities of our lakes, rivers, and mountains there are hazards that can occur that we need to be prepared for. They include,

- **Flooding**- Over 75,000 people in Snohomish County live and work in areas where potentially devastating floods can occur. Floods, primarily along the Snohomish and Stillaguamish river basins, occur every 3 to 5 years. Since 1962, there have been 18 floods that were large enough to be Presidentially declared disasters.

- **Earthquakes**- Snohomish County has numerous faults and folds that make it a seismically active area. Most quakes are not strong enough to do damage. But over the last 125 years as least 20 strong quakes have resulted in \$2 billion in damage.
- **Severe Weather**- While we have mild weather in the Puget Sound region, we can have winter storms with high winds, torrential rains, ice and snow resulting in electric outages, icy roads, and trees into houses.
- **Landslides**- Up to 60,000 people live in areas that are susceptible to damage from landslides. More than 12,400 structures are in areas of potential landslides, 95% of which are someone's home.
- **Wildfire**- 128,000 people live in the wildland urban interface where wildfire endangers \$9.7 billion in property.

For information on how to be prepared for these and other potential natural disasters check out the DEM website at:

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/180/Emergency-Management>

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE RESOURCES**

**CRIME STATISTICS & REPORTS**

For information about crime statistics for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and its contract cities go to the following link:

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/3308/Crime-Statistics-Reports>

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:**

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

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

**TIP LINES**



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

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/303/Anonymous-Tips>

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