



# Shoreline Police BUSINESS WATCH

Eastside and Westside Shoreline Police Neighborhood Centers

First Quarter 2005

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**Partnership for Crime Prevention in the Business Community**

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## CRIMES AGAINST BUSINESSES

*By past Washington State Crime Prevention Association President Maurice M. Bell*

This crime prevention information is for small business owners, managers, and your neighboring businesses. Prevention practitioners across the country are realizing more and more how important neighborhood associations are for healthy commercial districts. While many crimes have to be dealt with on an individual basis by each business, there are many problems that single businesses alone cannot overcome, like graffiti and other forms of vandalism.

These kinds of crimes are really attacks on a whole neighborhood, and affect everyone. Still other crimes, like robbery and shoplifting, can be dealt with by a group of alert and concerned businesses together, sharing information, knowing how to contact each other, reporting suspicious behavior to the police, etc.

For this reason we support the formation and ongoing activity of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and merchants' associations, you together who are best able to solve problems common to your own areas and unique locales. These problems go far beyond crime-related issues, like area promotions, traffic or zoning concerns, joint advertising, whatever is useful and appropriate to your communities. Paying attention to your own businesses, and working with your neighboring businesses to solve common problems, is the best way to assure a healthier and more prosperous future for everyone.

So treat this material as tips for self-help measures you can do yourself to reduce the likelihood of being a crime victim, working with your local association of businesses, neighbors and your police department.

**There are many measures you can take to make it clear to potential burglars that your business is no place to do business!**

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Alternate formats available upon request

# BURGLARY PREVENTION

## Preventive Measures - The Exterior

- Adequately light all exterior sides of your business (including alleyways) and the parking lot, using vandal-resistant fixtures. As most store burglaries occur at night when it's dark, lighting serves as one of the most important deterrents.
- Install an alarm system and check it regularly for failure. Your crime prevention officer can assist you in making the right choice for a system.
- Post conspicuously a notice that shows you have an alarm.
- Reinforce doors with long screws or bolts on heavy-duty strike plates, pop out proof hinges, or hole/nail combo at top and bottom. Replace all hollow-core doors.
- Install deadbolt locks on all outside doors and double cylinder deadbolts on interior doors with glass panels. Check that the locks are properly installed.
- Issue as few keys as possible and change the locks if keys are lost or most returned by a former employee. Don't tag keys with the name of your business. Keep a log of keys issued.
- Secure all roof openings, air ducts, skylights, air conditioning units, hatchways, doorway transoms, sidewalk and basement openings.
- Don't provide concealment or climbing platforms for the burglar. Clear and maintain all debris, weeds and shrubbery away from windows and doors. Lock up ladders and all tools that could make a burglar's job easier.
- Protect windows and glass doors with transparent window security film, security glazing, or roll-down security panels; or install burglar-resistant glass. Use bars or grating on rear and side windows.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To comply with fire safety ordinances for door and window security, consult with your fire departments Fire Prevention Division, Shoreline Fire Dept., 206-533-6500.

## Preventive Measures - The Interior

- Keep a minimum of cash on the premises. Leave cash registers empty and open after hours.
- Move valuable merchandise and business equipment such as computers away from the windows or doors to prevent smash-and-grab thefts.
- Make it difficult to steal merchandise. i.e. bolt breaks down, alternate the dire direction of hangers on the rack, tie appliance cords together, chain bicycles, lock small valuables in cabinets and showcases.
- Arrange window displays so that passersby and police can see into the store.
- Anchor your safe to the for in a well-lit, highly visible location. Keep all valuable documents and items, including company vehicle keys, in safe.
- Always leave an interior light that is visible from the street. IF for any reason it is off, the darkened store will arouse suspicion.
- Finally, don't lock a burglar inside when you leave. Inspect all closets, bathrooms and other hiding places before closing. For personal safety, try to have two people present at both opening and closing.

If you suspect that your business has been burglarized, call the police immediately. Do not try to enter the premises - the burglar may still be inside. Don't disturb any evidence. consult with your local crime prevention officer to discuss how to best protect your business from another burglary.

**For more information about crime prevention, call one of your storefront offices below:**

*Westside Neighborhood Center*  
624 NW Richmond Beach Rd.  
Shoreline, WA 98177  
206-546-3636

*Eastside Neighborhood Center*  
521 NE 165 St.  
Shoreline, WA 98155  
206-363-8424



**IMPORTANT  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS**

In an  
Emergency,  
CALL 911



Police  
Non-Emergency  
(206) 296-3311

Shoreline Police  
Precinct  
1206 N 185 St  
(206) 546-6730

Police West Side  
Neighborhood  
Center  
624 NW Richmond  
Beach Rd  
(206) 546-3636

Police East Side  
Neighborhood  
Center  
521 NE 165 St  
(206) 363-8424

# FREE SERVICES

## Emergency Business Notification Cards

Police are there in an emergency. Maybe it's the time when a burglar has gained entry to your business by smashing through the front window. Police would need you or a designated contact person to help secure your business.

Help us ensure that when we need to contact you, we can. Call the *Westside Storefront* and speak to one of our volunteers to get signed up or to update your contact information.

## Security Surveys

Shoreline Police have volunteers specially trained to do crime prevention surveys. Known as CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), this concept has emerged as one of the most promising and effective approaches to creating safer properties and physical environments. Emphasis placed on the proper design or redesign can lead to the reduction in the incidences, opportunity and fear of crime through natural, mechanical and procedural means.

## E-Mail Newsletters

Call one of your storefronts to sign up for your free Business Watch Newsletter. We hope to have our Business Watch newsletter on our website soon! We can e-mail you the link so you can click and read the latest in crime trends and crime prevention. A neighborhood crime map specifically for businesses will be coming soon too.