



Dear Business Owner or Manager,

Over the last year there has been a series of burglaries throughout Snohomish County and North King County that involve a team of suspects that break into multiple businesses. They will break into one business through a door or window, and then cut or break through walls to get into neighboring businesses. They are usually searching for any money that is left at the business in tills, deposit bags or safes. These burglaries typically happen during hours of darkness and over weekends when businesses are closed for a longer period of time.

It is likely that these suspects come into a business to gather information about hours, layout and security systems prior to committing the crime. Please read the attached tip sheet and exercise a heightened awareness for suspicious people entering the business. Note descriptions and license plates should your business be victimized in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Deputy McKinney at 206-363-8424 or Deputy Obstler 206-546-3636.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel M. Pingrey". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Daniel M. Pingrey

Chief of Police

Shoreline Police Department



SECURITY TIPS TO AVOID BECOMING A BURGLARY VICTIM

December 21, 2010

Commercial businesses can reduce their vulnerability to burglary by making sure that they have done all they can do to give the appearance of a property that practices good security measures. Business owners/managers can deter potential burglars by making it as hard as possible to gain entry.

Consider these target-hardening suggestions:

- Awareness:** Be aware of "customers" who come in and don't purchase anything. They could be casing your business to return after closing. Write down license plate numbers and suspicious person descriptions.
- Windows:** Assure that all windows can be secured in such a way that they cannot be defeated easily from outside. Make sure that all of the windows are checked prior to securing the business for the day. Burglars will look for windows left unsecured. Make sure that windows are not blocked by merchandise, which would not allow someone to see inside. Also make sure that valuable merchandise is not left near the windows; move it to the center of the business.
- Cash Registers:** Keep your cash register in plain view from the outside of your business, so it can be monitored by police during the day or at night. Leave it open and empty after closing.
- Safes:** Do not leave large amounts of money in the safe overnight. Consider leaving the safe door open and the safe empty. Safes should be secured to the floor and visible from the outside. Consider signage visible from the outside, which states that no cash is left on the premises overnight.
- Lighting:** Assure that all entry points to the building are properly illuminated. Leave enough interior lighting to detect movement, and make sure blinds or curtains do not prevent detection of activity from outside. Make sure that all of the existing lighting is in good working order.
- Doors:** Check for signs of structural weakness. Make sure that you have heavy, updated locks and that they are in good working condition. Rear doors should be of heavy solid construction preferably with no windows. One of the best security measures for a rear or side non-public door is a bar placed in u-brackets securing the door to the doorframe. This is very cost effective and makes it almost impossible to pry the door open.
- Locks:** Make sure that all doors, windows, and skylights are secured with the best possible locks. No lock is burglar proof, but the harder it is to gain entry, the longer it will take, increasing the chances of apprehending the criminal. Considering these factors, the potential intruder will probably leave in an attempt to find another property which is less secure and where the risks are fewer.
- Roof:** Make sure that any access to the business from the roof such as a roof hatch and ventilation systems are secured from the inside.
- Alarm Systems:** If you have an alarm system, be sure to set it and use it. Make sure to have clearly visible signage stating the premises are protected by an alarm system. If an alarm is activated, consider it to be valid and notify police immediately.

Implementing any one of these business safety tips could be just enough of a deterrent to stop a potential burglar.