

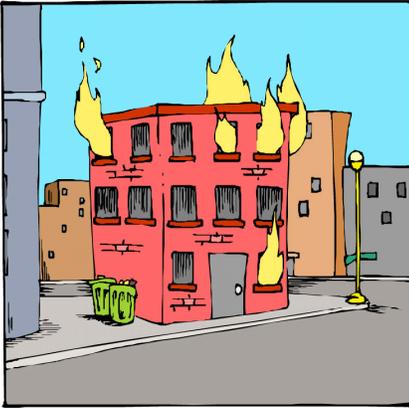


Renton Police Department

Business Watch News

April 2008

Staying in Business When Disaster Strikes



You have done everything you can to prevent a business disaster. You locked up at night, kept valuables out of sight and secured, and followed the fire code to the letter. Then, you come to work one day to find broken windows, your office in disarray, computers gone, and valuable records missing; or you receive a call in the middle of the night to tell you your business is on fire. After the smoke has cleared you discover that what wasn't consumed by fire was damaged by water.

Your bottom line is instantly affected, whether you realize it or not. Insurance may pay for the direct damages, but how do you get back the customer who goes somewhere else for products or services; replace the valuable records that were stolen, damaged or destroyed; or restore the confidence of your clients whose private information is now in the hands of

thieves? Whether from burglary, vandalism, fire, water, or some other damaging force, it's just as bad for your business as if you had gone through a major disaster. From our experience with disasters we know that if a small or medium sized business is unable to reopen within two weeks, there is an 80% chance that business will never open its doors again.

If you haven't planned ahead, your business will almost certainly suffer. So how do you recover from a serious business interruption and minimize your potential losses? The first step is to create a Business Continuity Plan. An excellent publication, "Open for Business: A Disaster Planning Toolkit for the Small to Mid-Sized Business Owner", is available online from the Institute for Business and Home Safety at www.ibhs.org.

Upcoming Business Continuity Workshop!

For those who would appreciate more guidance and personalized assistance in developing a business continuity plan, a one-day Business Continuity Workshop is being offered by the City of Renton in partnership with the American Red Cross. The Workshop will take place on May 20th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Renton Technical College. The registration fee is \$25 and covers the catering for the event (lunch and snacks). Participants will identify potential risks, their business impacts, and will determine critical operations and strategies necessary to maintain essential functions and resume normal activities. The course information and registration form are available on the city's website at www.rentonwa.gov. Search for "BCW". For more detailed information, contact the City of Renton's Office of Emergency Management at 425-430-7027.

Submitted by Deborah Needham, Renton Fire and Emergency Services Department



Photo Enforcement Cameras— Coming Soon to an Intersection Near You!

(See Page 3 for More Information)

Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Month of March 2008

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:

LOSS

700 block S Grady Way
7:01 a.m.

A suspect wearing a mask entered the business. He pointed a gun at the employee and demanded cash. The employee fled to the rear of the business and was followed by the suspect. The manager yelled to the suspect that the cash register was open and fled out the back door. From his hiding place outside the business he observed the suspect leave. The recording from the security camera shows the suspect attempting to open the cash register without success before leaving the business.

none

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:

LOSS

1800 block Index Ave NE

Officers responded to a burglary alarm and found fresh damage to the building door lock and a bicycle and backpack outside on the ground. The suspect was located inside by a police K9 and placed under arrest. Burglary tools were found where the suspect had been hiding. The suspect was searched, and had methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and cut wire ends in his pockets. The backpack, which the subject claimed to have found, contained more burglary tools, property stolen from a vehicle, and copper wire stolen from ten light poles on the business property. The subject was booked for Burglary, Theft, Malicious Mischief, Possession of Stolen Property, and Possession of Drugs. *Crime Prevention Tip: Install latch guards over exterior door locks to increase the difficulty involved in prying or damaging the lock to gain entry.*

\$500

300 block Rainier Ave N

The business owner arrived at the business and found the cash register on the floor and cash missing. The credit card scanner was stolen, and the suspect(s) selected about sixty music CD's from a player containing several hundred CD's. There are two locks on the door, only one of which is regularly used. There was no damage to the lock that is not normally used. Since the suspect(s) only damaged the lock that is commonly used and selected only certain CD's from the player, it appears the suspect(s) may have been familiar with the business. *Crime Prevention Tip: Do not leave cash in the cash register during non-business hours. Conduct background and reference checks on job applicants. When an employee leaves on unfavorable terms, have locks replaced or re-keyed.*

\$898

17600 block 108th Ave SE

Officers responded to an alarm and found the business glass door had been shattered with a rock. The cash register drawer was empty and on the floor behind the counter. Officers attempted to contact the persons listed on the business license without success. The alarm company did not have current contact information for the owner or manager. Officers were unable to secure the business, and waited five hours until an employee arrived. The employee advised that cash and cigarettes were taken from the business. Security video and follow up investigation produced a possible suspect. The case was forwarded to the prosecutor for charges. *Crime Prevention Tip: Only the minimum amount of cash necessary should be left inside a business after hours, and should be secured in a locked safe that is bolted down. Business owners should complete a Business Emergency Contact Information form so police/fire personnel know who to contact in the event of an emergency. An application of Security Film can increase the strength of window/door glass by up to three hundred percent, greatly increasing the amount of time and effort a criminal must exert to gain illegal entry to the business. Lastly, the Renton Police Department offers FREE security surveys to businesses. A crime prevention specialist will make recommendations specific to your business to help prevent crime. Call 425-430-7520 to schedule one!*

\$3,894

500 block Monster Rd S

An employee reported a computer printer and laptop docking station were stolen from the business over the weekend. Entry to the office was gained via an unlocked door. There is no suspect information, and employees were unable to provide the serial numbers for the stolen property. *Crime Prevention Tip: Unattended areas should be kept locked when not in use. Keep a detailed, up-to-date list of the make, model and serial numbers of all business assets and store it off-site.*

\$1,700

Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Month of March 2008 (Continued)

10700 block SE Carr Rd	Arriving officers found a shattered glass door. A K9 search of the business did not locate any suspects. A television on the shelf closest to the door was the only item stolen from the business. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Items of value should be stored away from doors and windows, to reduce the likelihood of rapid smash-and-grab burglaries.</i>	\$1,300
1100 block Sunset Blvd NE	Cash, lighters, and thirty-five cartons of cigarettes were stolen from the business. Entry was gained by prying the double glass doors at the lock, damaging the door frame but not the glass. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Many glass business doors are fitted with cylinder locks; these should be supplemented with deadbolt locks. All exterior door locks should be fitted with latch guards to reduce the likelihood of prying or damaging the lock.</i>	\$1,720
600 block SW 12th St	Officers responded to an alarm and found a gate to an exterior storage yard open. Tools were stacked on the ground inside the fenced yard, and a K9 track located additional tools in a wooded area adjacent to the business. Tool boxes on several business vehicles had been broken into, and the suspect(s) broke into the building by cutting a padlock. The tools located nearby were returned to the business, and it is unknown if additional items were stolen. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Whenever possible, tools and equipment should be stored inside a secured building. This may include removing items from business vehicles at night and during weekends.</i>	unknown
100 block Park Ave N	Business owner reports he arrived at his business and found the rear door locks broken off. The lock on an interior door that secures medication was also damaged, but the suspect/s was not able to get through this door. Cash and a check were stolen from the business. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Retain only the smallest possible amount of cash on site during non-business hours. Store cash in a secured location.</i>	\$515

Auto Thefts: There were 36 cars reported stolen in Renton during the month of March 2008.

Auto Recoveries: Twenty vehicles that were stolen outside the City were recovered in Renton during March 2008.

Traffic Safety Camera System

Nearly 2 million crashes occur each year in intersections, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. In 2005 alone, drivers running red lights resulted in 800 fatalities and over 165,000 injuries. Speeding and running red lights jeopardize public safety on a daily basis.

To counteract these dangers, the City of Renton has installed photo enforcement cameras at key intersections where red light running is a frequent occurrence. A 30-day warning period will begin on May 1, 2008. Motorists who run red lights during this period will be mailed a warning notice. Following the warning period, the registered owner of a vehicle that runs a red light will receive a \$124 infraction. Each intersection will be clearly marked with signs advising drivers that photo enforcement is in effect.

Photo enforcement cameras that monitor speed will be installed in the near future in school zones near Renton High School, McKnight Middle School, and Talbot Hill Elementary, to increase pedestrian safety.

For more information on the Photo Enforcement Program, please see the City's web page at

www.rentonwa.gov/government/default.aspx?id=16200.



Terri Vickers / Crime Prevention Unit
1055 S Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
Phone: (425) 430-7520
Fax: (425) 430-7505
E-mail the Editor at: tvickers@ci.renton.wa.us

Do You “D.A.R.E.” ?



During a recent visit to a Renton retailer, I noticed a table set up outside the business displaying products for sale. There was a large banner across the table with the “D.A.R.E.—Drug Abuse Resistance Education” logo

across the front. The salesperson asked if I wanted to support my “local police department” by purchasing items that would “sponsor D.A.R.E. programs in the area.”

I’m familiar with D.A.R.E. programs, and think they are an asset to many communities. Like many people, I support causes that reflect my values.

But since I work for the Renton Police Department, I’m aware that Renton no longer has a D.A.R.E. program—and hasn’t for some years, based on the needs of the Renton School District. In fact, I’m not aware of ANY local school districts that still have D. A.R.E. programs.

So I asked the salesperson, exactly where are these local D.A.R.E. programs? His response was, “You know, local!” and included a hand gesture that seemed to indicate the immediate area. Hmmm.

Apparently I’ve been in the field of law enforcement

for too long, because I couldn’t resist asking, “How much of the proceeds go to these ‘local’ D. A.R.E. programs?” After a brief pause he said, “I’m not really sure.”

I didn’t purchase any products to “support local D.A.R.E. programs.”



I was dressed in business attire, and wondered what answers the salesman would give a uniformed officer who asked the same questions, so I asked the district officer to stop by the store if he had time. He did, and asked some questions of his own, including whether the seller had a peddler’s license as required to do business in Renton. (He did not.) When the uniformed officer asked what percentage of the proceeds actually went to “local D.A.R.E. programs,” he eventually got a more specific answer than I did: Five percent.

If you choose to support a good cause, do it wisely. Check out the charity before you donate by going to the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance at www.give.org. Ask questions until you get satisfactory answers. Consider maximizing your donation by giving directly to the charity, instead of purchasing products that “support” it.