



# Renton Police Department

## Business Watch News

March 2008

### Calling 9-1-1



Most of us were taught as children that you only call 9-1-1 when there's an emergency – a fire, a robbery, a fist fight. Times have changed, and so has the 9-1-1 system. In Renton, any time you need a police officer, you call 9-1-1.

When you dial 9-1-1, your call is answered by a Call Receiver. The Call Receiver takes the necessary information and electronically forwards it to a Dispatcher. The Dispatcher sends the appropriate type of assistance to you.

**So what about calling 9-1-1 only when it's an emergency?** Dispatchers send police and fire personnel to many different types of situations—it's their job to prioritize the calls. If there are Call Receivers available when you dial 9-1-1, they may take your information

immediately. If the center is very busy or there is a significant event happening in the valley, they may ask if you are reporting an emergency. If you say no, you may be put on hold.

If you are reporting an emergency or an in-progress incident such as a robbery or a fight, you may feel frustrated that the Call Receiver is asking you lots of questions when all you want is someone to respond. Keep in mind that even as the Call Receiver is asking you to describe the suspects, if there are weapons involved, or what your location is, the call has already been electronically forwarded to the Dispatcher. Police or fire personnel have been dispatched and are on the way.



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### Women's Personal Safety Class



The Renton Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit is offering a FREE Personal Safety for Women class on the evening of May 21. The class is appropriate for women ages 14 and older and designed to teach crime prevention techniques. The focus will be on awareness and other simple concepts that will help women reduce their likelihood of being victimized. This is not a self-defense course. Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- How to prevent becoming the victim of assault or robbery
- How to handle "road rage" and "set up" accidents
- Use of force and your rights within the law
- Discussion of weapons for personal security, pros and cons
- How to decrease your odds of becoming a victim while at home



A criminal background check will be conducted on all applicants. Criminal history or adverse police contacts may preclude acceptance into the class. The class will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Prior classes have filled up very quickly, so apply soon! Applications can be downloaded from the City website at [www.ci.renton.wa.us](http://www.ci.renton.wa.us), or call the Crime Prevention Unit at 425-430-7520 or 425-430-7521 to have one mailed to you.

## Crimes Occurring on Business Property For the Month of February 2008

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY****LOSS**

100 block S 3rd St  
1:00 p.m.

A customer called from the business to report that a subject inside told him he was about to rob the place and shoot everyone inside. The suspect had entered the business and appeared to employees to be "casing" the place. The suspect asked some patrons for money and mentioned guns, then removed money from the counter. When the employee told him to put the money back, the suspect swore and reached into his jacket as if he were going to pull out a gun. The suspect made repeated movements towards his jacket as if reaching for a weapon, and made threats to shoot. Officers contacted the subject, who was arrested and charged with Robbery.

\$3

300 block Renton Center Way  
SW  
3:55 p.m.

The suspect, a clean shaven male approx. 20 years old and wearing a hooded sweatshirt and baseball cap, presented a note demanding cash. No weapon was seen or implied. The suspect left on foot in an unknown direction of travel. An area check was conducted by police units with negative results.

unknown

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:****LOSS**

300 block Shattuck Ave S

Entry to the office was gained by breaking the glass window in the door. The suspect/s stole a laptop computer. Nothing else appeared to be missing from the building. *Crime Prevention Tip: Consider an application of Security Film on exterior glass doors and windows. Security Film can increase the strength of the glass up to 300 percent, increasing the amount of time and energy a criminal must expend to gain entry. Keep an up-to-date inventory of valuables that includes the brand, model, and serial numbers. If your property is stolen, this information is required to list your property in the state law enforcement data base. If the property is located, this information will assist in the item being returned to your business.*

\$750

2500 block NE 9th Pl

The manager reports a pressure washer was stolen from the maintenance shed. Entry was gained by cutting the padlock on the door. *Crime Prevention Tip: Exterior doors should be of solid metal or wood construction and fitted with deadbolt locks and latch guards.*

\$415

2900 block East Valley Rd

A witness reported the suspect circling the closed business in a vehicle, then getting out and walking around. Officers contacted the subject in the truck, which contained product that appeared to be from the business yard. The suspect initially claimed the product was from down the street, then changed his story and said it was in the truck when he borrowed it. When asked for his license, he said he didn't have one because it was suspended. When asked for identification, he said he didn't have that either. Additional witnesses had observed the subject inside the business lot throwing product over the fence. The business owner confirmed that the property belonged to the business and the suspect did not have permission to remove it in the middle of the night. The suspect was booked into the Renton Jail for Felony Investigation of Burglary, for unlawfully entering the fenced business yard, and removing property without permission. *Crime Prevention Tip: Outdoor storage areas are frequently targeted by criminals. Items of value should be stored inside locked structures whenever possible. The security of fenced yards can be improved by installing chain link fencing that is topped or laced with barbed or razor wire. Security systems designed for such areas are also available.*

\$71  
(recovered)

6000 block SE 2nd St

Burglary to construction site. Suspect/s removed and stole the entry doors from the structure and stole several appliances from inside. Surveillance video shows a possible suspect vehicle, but is not clear enough to provide identifiable information. *Crime Prevention Tip. To be effective, video surveillance systems should be of sufficient quality to view details such as license plates and identifiable facial features. Without sufficient equipment or lighting, video camera footage may not be useful in identifying suspects. If the intent of the system is to prevent crime, the cameras should be monitored 24/7 so suspicious activity can be observed and immediately reported.*

\$2,300

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

900 block Powell Ave SW	Suspect/s stole a bucket of copper valued at about \$175. Entry to the business lot was gained by cutting a hole in the chain link fence. The bucket was near the fence line. The area is well lighted, but there are no other security measures in place. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Items of value, especially those that are small or easily transported, should be stored in a locked structure. At minimum, move items away from the fence line and well inside the lot, so more effort is required to access and remove the property. For additional information on securing outdoor areas, see the previous page or contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 425-430-7520.</i>	\$175
400 block Park Ave N	Several computers and a purse were stolen from the business; there was no sign of forced entry. The business shares an interior door with an adjacent business space. When the employee arrived, the front door of the adjacent space was unlocked and open. There was no sign of forced entry to this door. It appears suspect/s gained entry to the adjacent space and then entered the victim business. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: You must be able to secure your business when you/your employees are not on the premises. All doors that are accessible to non-employees should be treated as exterior doors, which should be of solid wood or metal construction and fitted with deadbolt locks and latch guards.</i>	\$4,959
17000 block 116th Ave SE	Entry to business was gained by breaking the glass door with a rock. Once inside, suspect/s stole cartons and single packs of cigarettes. A K9 track was initiated, but no suspects were located. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Security Film would increase the strength of the glass. Items such as cigarettes, lottery tickets, phone cards, etc. should be stored in a locked container and away from the entrance to increase the amount of time and difficulty required to remove them from the business.</i>	unknown

*Auto Thefts: There were 38 cars reported stolen in Renton during the month of February 2008.*

*Auto Recoveries: Sixteen vehicles that were stolen outside the City were recovered in Renton during February 2008.*

### OTHER CRIMES OF INTEREST OCCURRING ON BUSINESS PROPERTY

1200 block SW 43rd St	Officers observed several people loitering in front of the business, which is clearly marked with "No Trespassing" signs at each entrance. The area is popular with illegal street racers, generating nuisance, noise, and code complaints from the business owners. Since signage, warnings, and presence have not been effective, the property owner has asked police to take a zero tolerance enforcement policy regarding trespassing. Multiple subjects were charged with Criminal Trespass. <i>Crime Prevention Tip: Properly posted "No Trespassing" signs on your business lot assist police in enforcing violations.</i>
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## Calling 9-1-1, Continued

The questions you are being asked will assist the Officers when they arrive. For example, a robbery with a gun—a description of the suspect, the direction they went when they left the business, any vehicle involved—all of this information will help our Officers locate the suspect.

In Renton, all calls are dispatched through 9-1-1. If you call the Renton Police Department business line and tell them you need to make a police report, you will be asked to call 9-1-1. Our business office personnel cannot send an Officer to take a report; only the Dispatcher (who is located in an entirely different building) can dispatch Officers.

When you call 9-1-1, be patient with the operator and remember that providing as much information as possible increases the chances of catching the criminals—AND helps keep Officers safe!



## RENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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# Car Prowl!

Theft from vehicles is one of the most commonly reported crimes in the greater King County area. While your customers and employees are inside shopping or conducting business, thieves are outside in the parking lot conducting THEIR business. They will casually walk through the parking lot, appearing to be going about their day, while in reality they are selecting a target. The red car with a backpack in the back seat, the blue one with the portable GPS mount attached to the windshield, the shopping bags on the floor of the next one. Gone are the days when crooks targeted your stereo; these days they'll take anything they can sell to make a buck or trade for drugs. Even something you don't think is "valuable" - a diaper bag, for example - is attractive to thieves. They may only find diapers inside, but you will still have to deal with the broken window. Students often leave their backpacks in the car, only to find several hundred dollars worth of textbooks and a semester's worth of irreplaceable class notes missing when they return to the car.



We regularly see car prowls occurring outside gyms and athletic clubs and at walking trails, since people often leave their valuables in the car while they exercise. Movie theaters and Park-and-Ride lots are often targeted, because the crooks know the vehicle is likely to be left unattended for a period of time. Briefcases, purses and electronic equipment are prime targets. Mail left in vehicles may provide prowlers with information they can use to steal your identity.

Save yourself some hassle—don't leave anything that isn't bolted down in your car, and encourage your employees and customers to do the same. If you put your briefcase or purse in the trunk, do it before you arrive at your destination, so that criminals checking out the parking lot don't see you put your valuables in the trunk (and know where to look for them)!