



The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office



Neighborhood Watch

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NEWS

What Neighborhood Watch is:

A crime-prevention program that encourages neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activities can be observed and recognized for what they are, then reported and investigated if necessary.

What Neighborhood Watch is not:

A program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.

SHERIFF'S KEY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 911

24-hour

Non-Emergency:

(503) 655-8211

Business Number:

(503) 655-8218

Sheriff's Office

Web site:

www.clackamas.us/sheriff

Deadbolts at risk for break-ins

Recently the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office became aware of a method that burglars use to break into homes equipped with dead bolts. It is called Lock Bumping. You may have already seen this on the news. By making a series of special cuts on a common house key, the key can be inserted into almost any lock. Once the key is in the lock, the end of the key is tapped with the head of a screw driver or similar tool, which unlocks the dead bolt.

According to lock smiths, there are some dead bolts that are resistant to lock bumping. They tend to be more expensive locks with a 2" deadbolt and a heavy duty strike plate. Other deterrents



for burglars are good lighting, pets and alarms. Also, be a good neighbor and report any suspicious

persons in your neighborhood who appear to be attempting to break into homes. ♦

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Citizen Volunteer Auxiliary/Neighborhood Watch Program publishes the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS quarterly. To learn more about volunteering for the Sheriff's Office, go to www.1-800-Volunteer.org and look up "Crime/legal" in the Issue area drop down box, with zip code 97045. This newsletter can be found online at the Sheriff's Office Web site, www.clackamas.us/sheriff. If you need additional copies, you may call the Crime Prevention Unit at (503) 353-4441. To receive further information or to join the Neighborhood Watch Program contact: **Community Service Officer Sara McClurg**, Crime Prevention Unit, (503) 353-4441 or CrimePrevention@co.clackamas.or.us.

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Search & Rescue

Don't let your "15 minutes of fame" be the result of a Search & Rescue effort.

One thing that is great about living in the Northwest is vast choices for hiking, backpacking, camping and enjoying our beautiful forest land. Every summer, **Clackamas County Search & Rescue** is called upon to find people who have become lost or injured in remote parts of the county. Clackamas County is 60% BLM and Forest Service Land. With hundreds of logging roads and trails, it is easy to lose your way. We hear from dozens of frantic relatives and friends every summer, reporting their loved ones are long overdue. Search and Rescue teams cost the county a huge expense in overtime, fuel, food, supplies and equipment. Here are some tips for having a safe and fun experience in our forests this summer:

- **Bear in mind any medical problems you may have** and do not push the limits of your physical abilities.
- **Think ahead about possible emergencies you might encounter and how you would handle them.** What if you got lost or injured? What weather might you



encounter? Bring equipment and supplies that will sustain you in the event of these types of situations. It could save your life.

- **Never hike alone or allow young ones to wander off by themselves.** If you are hiking to a remote location, you should have at least four members in your party. That way, if one of you becomes injured, one can stay with the injured party while the others go to find help.
- **Take emergency signaling devices and cell phones.**

Emergency signaling devices are available for rent at many Mount Hood locations. Remember that cell phones do not always work in remote locations and your battery may die before you are rescued.

- **Research the location of the closest ranger station or public telephone** before you start your trip.
- **Leave a copy of your planned itinerary with a responsible person,** including the make, year, model and license plate of your car, the food, water and equipment you

are bringing and the time you are expected back. Include a complete list of all people who will be joining you on your hike and their associated cars. Do not change your itinerary without notifying someone.

- **Make sure your vehicle is in good working order,** can handle the types of roads you will encounter, and has plenty of fuel.
- **Make sure you have a current and accurate map** of the area and a compass. ♦

Thieves in Clackamas County focus on stealing purses

You turn away from your shopping cart for just a second while you load groceries into your car. When you turn back to your shopping cart, your purse has been stolen. You look around, and although you see a lot of people, you can't tell who took your purse. You find yourself with no money, cell phone, credit cards or car keys. You call the police from a phone in the store. They come out to take a report and look at video surveillance footage for a possible suspect. There he is, the guy who took your purse, moving swiftly and purposefully. You can't believe how fast he is. Due to the angle of the camera, you never see his face, just a guy in blue jeans and a t-shirt wearing a baseball cap. The police tell you there is really nothing much they can do without a better physical description of the thief.

You manage to get home several hours after the incident. You call your bank to let them know about your stolen debit card only to be told that the thief has successfully racked up over \$2000.00 worth of purchases since stealing your purse. Your bank requires you to sign an affidavit before they will relieve you of these charg-



es, then they will return your funds.....in a couple of weeks.

Purses are a primary target for thieves. The attraction is that they usually contain many valuables and it only takes a split second to steal them. Once an experienced thief gets hold of your credit/debit cards, they customarily go straight to stores they know are likely to accept them without question. It takes several weeks, if not months to reopen credit cards, get a new driver's license and replace the many things you carry in your purse.

The best practice is to never lose sight of your purse, not even for an

instant. Be aware of the people in your vicinity. Carry only a small amount of cash and the absolutely necessary ID and credit/debit cards. Leave your social security card at home.

If you are a victim of a stolen purse, do call 911, but once you have done that, call your bank(s) immediately to inform them of the theft and place a hold on your accounts. You should also place a fraud alert on your personal information by contacting one of the major credit reporting agencies, Experian, EquiFax or TransUnion. This should dramatically lower your risk for identity theft. ♦



Most guns are not stored safely

Are the kids at home for summer? Do you own guns? If so, where do you keep them? Roughly one-fourth to one-third of parents with young children have a gun at home. In most cases, parents do not take adequate precautions to safely store the weapons. Safe storage of guns, defined as guns being unloaded, locked in a cabinet or safe, with a gun lock, with ammunition stored separately, apparently is not a wide spread practice. Although children usually understand the rules, it just takes one instance of bad judgment for a tragedy to occur. This is a preventable tragedy. Keep your children safe this summer. ♦