

SHERIFF'S BUSINESS WATCH BULLETIN

February, 2009

Sheriff's Message

Welcome to the first edition of the Business Watch Bulletin. This bulletin is an important part of a more comprehensive approach to working collectively in order to combat crimes against our local businesses and to do our part for our local economy. We know that times are challenging here in Weber County for businesses and their owners and managers. We also know very well that a healthy and safe commerce is critical to the overall quality of life of Weber County.

This Business Watch Bulletin will be published periodically as an e-mail to you and posted on our website. Each edition will contain information regarding recent crimes and problems affecting local businesses. These crime analysis reviews are provided to let you know of the risks and problems your neighboring businesses are having to deal with and which may also threaten you. Knowledge is power! These reports will contain some details of the crimes as well as information regarding the suspects and their methods. The reasons we will share this are two fold; first, we want you to protect yourselves. Secondly, by giving you this information, we are employing you as a lookout. Should you see someone or something suspicious, especially something that resembles information from one of these crime reports, your call to us can help us to catch criminals, prevent crime and protect you and your business neighbors better.

Business Protection Tips:

After hours and on weekends, your Weber County deputy sheriff's routinely patrol local businesses. As they patrol they are looking for suspicious vehicles, open doors, broken windows and other clues that might suggest that a business may have been victimized. If a business, such as a convenience store, has extended hours, the deputies are looking in to see that employees and patrons are conducting business as usual and that there are no suspicious signs of problems. As we try to keep a conspicuous presence as a deterrent to crime, it is not always possible to discourage a desperate criminal from committing a crime. With that in mind, while we are trying to prevent crime, we are looking for signs that a crime is in progress or may have already occurred. To help us with the latter, there are things you can do as a business operator that can make our efforts more effective. These concepts are called "**crime prevention through environmental design**" or CPTED. There are a number of websites on the Internet that address CPTED, but here are some of the basic concepts:

1. Natural Surveillance – This is a concept that addresses crime prevention - keeping intruders easily observable. The idea is to maximize visibility of people, parking areas and building entrances: doors and windows that look out on to streets and parking areas; pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and streets; front porches; adequate nighttime lighting. This includes; keeping windows clear of posters and obstructions, keeping shrubbery cut down, trees trimmed up, motion activated lighting, fencing that allows easy visibility by passers-by – including law enforcement. If a criminal can see (pun intended) that others can see what's going on, they are apt to go elsewhere to commit their crimes.

2. Territorial Reinforcement & Natural Access Control - This is a concept in which the business owner creates controls that define and reinforce areas that allow public access and restricts unauthorized entrance into protected areas. This includes signs, fencing, locking gates and doors, sidewalks, alarms and lighting that encourage visitors, both wanted and unwanted, to only access certain areas of the business and makes it obvious when there is unauthorized access to restricted areas.

3. Target Hardening – This involves the use of alarms, doors reinforced doors and windows and other precautions that are both conspicuous, so as to convince an would-be criminal to look elsewhere but also, for those who can't be persuaded to go away, makes it harder to break in or escape once they commit the crime. Such precautions as installing a deadbolt or a crossbar inside a warehouse man-door, bars on windows, or even just backing up delivery trucks to a fence or building to make it difficult to carry out property from a delivery van are all precautions that can be taken that are included in this category of CPTED.

Below is a list of some of the business related crimes for January, 2009. In addition, there have been a few storage shed burglaries around the county.

1/31/2009

Stolen Trailers

Two snowmobiles were found on F Avenue in Ogden this morning. Owners contacted and discovered the snowmobiles and trailer had been stolen overnight. Snowmobiles had been pushed off the trailer on F Avenue. Trailer still missing is black 14' V Nose Voyager flatbed with silver diamond plate on front. Possible suspect vehicle seen by neighbor is Maroon mid 1990's Chevrolet Pickup Truck.

Note: trailers are difficult to track. Small trailers are often not registered and so may not show up on any state computer systems as the new owner who purchases the stolen trailer may have no need to get it licensed.

Counterfeit \$20 bills

Four counterfeit \$20.00 bills were found on the ground near a printing business at noon today. Bills were wet and faded bluish green with the same serial numbers (IL80005044C). Entered into evidence and referred to investigations. Layton PD was contacted to match numbers with counterfeit case they are handling but no match.

Note: SLC has also seen some counterfeit bills. Please look at large bills carefully. When in doubt, you can do as some businesses and ask for ID. That way, if the bills are counterfeit, police have a lead to follow up on.

1/22/2009

2377 S 1900 W Ultimate Indoor Soccer.

Sometime between 1-18-09 and 1-22-09 someone made entry into the building by removing the metal sheeting on the north side of the building then cut a hole in the insulation.

Construction site Burglary 1776 W Eccles St.

Complainant reported to day shift that they had several tools and materials taken from their construction site. Complainant advised Deputy that several other contractors on the job had items taken also.

1/21/2009

Auto Theft, 2108 S. 1100 W.

Employee of King Muffler, reported his Grey 2005 Chevrolet Colorado UT/A641JM was stolen from the side of the company building sometime between 1/19/09 and 1/21/09. The vehicle was drivable, was unlocked and the keys were left on the front drivers side floor.

1/17/2009

1998 Chev Pickup Colorado/873-LOM stolen from 12th and 12th was recovered in Rock Springs Wyoming today. Suspects in custody are Paul Cornwell and Hailey Forsberg. They were towing a large utility trailer with no VIN.