

# SHERIFF'S BUSINESS WATCH BULLETIN

February, 2009

**Vehicle Burglary:** A disabled company truck was broken into and stripped of a dash cover and instrument cluster on 2/10/09 - location 1600 S 1100 W in Marriott/Slaterville. Note: We are seeing an increase in burglaries of vehicles, both personal and company owned vehicles. Not only are thieves going into unlocked vehicles to take whatever is loose - such as wallets, phones, iPods and jewelry - They are taking keys that they can use to burglarize your home later on. Also, and this is something we see more of when the economy suffers, it is profitable to strip vehicles of wheels, radios, mirrors, dash instruments and other items that can be sold on Ebay, Craigs List and other on-line auctions. These items are difficult to trace back to a victim and can net a few hundred dollars. Please lock unattended vehicles. Don't leave valuables in vehicles if possible or at least don't leave them in plain view. When possible park vehicles in garages, within fences or in warehouses so as to hide the vehicle from view or to make it more difficult for the thief. Thieves look for easy opportunities to commit their crimes. They need to be able to get in and out as quickly as possible to avoid detection. If they don't see your vehicle, or if it looks too difficult to get to or if it is in a location that is observable to too many people, they will move to another vehicle that affords easier opportunity. Also, please report thefts immediately to police.

**Business Burglary in the area of 1200 W. 1200 S.** We received an alarm call from the business, deputies arrived within 8 minutes of being dispatched. The suspects managed to get in the back door, open a safe and take cash and checks and leave prior to our arrival.

**Multiple ski and snowboard thefts at the local ski resorts.**

**Since Identify Theft impacts local businesses we thought we would include a small article on "What do thieves do with a stolen identity?"**

**Once they have your personal information, identity thieves use it in a variety of ways.**

**Credit Card Fraud:**

- They may open new credit card accounts in your name. When they use the cards and don't pay the bills, the delinquent accounts appear on your credit report.

**Bank/Finance Fraud:**

- They may create counterfeit checks using your name or account number.
- They may open a bank account in your name and write bad checks.

- They may clone your ATM or debit card and make electronic withdrawals your name, draining your accounts.
- They may take out a loan in your name.
- They may change the billing address on your credit card so that you no longer receive bills, and then run up charges on your account. Because your bills are now sent to a different address, it may be some time before you realize there's a problem.

#### Phone or utilities fraud:

- They may open a new phone or wireless account in your name, or run up charges on your existing account.
- They may use your name to get utility services like electricity, heating, or cable TV.

#### Government documents fraud:

- They may get a driver's license or official ID card issued in your name but with their picture.
- They may use your name and Social Security number to get government benefits.
- They may file a fraudulent tax return using your information.

#### Other fraud:

- They may get a job using your Social Security number.
- They may rent a house or get medical services using your name.
- They may give your personal information to police during an arrest. If they don't show up for their court date, a warrant for arrest is issued in your name.

The above article was taken from "FIGHTING BACK AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT" located at the following website: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/about-identity-theft.html>

Please feel free to visit this website for further information!

*Some businesses have asked about getting Criminal Records on your employees: Here is some information and a web site that you can contact for further information:*

## Obtaining Utah History Criminal Records of Your Employees

There are several options available to employers, depending upon their qualifications.

**Working with children and vulnerable adults** - [Utah Law 53-10-108](#) allows qualifying entities to request Utah criminal history information. Public law 105-251, the Volunteers for Children Act which amended the National Child Protection Act of 1993, was enacted October 9, 1998 to allow these same qualifying entities to request fingerprint-based national criminal history record checks of their volunteers and employees. For more information, download the [Application Form](#).

(Available on the website)

**Fiduciary Funds, National Security, Statutory Authority - [Utah Code Annotated 53-10-108](#)** allows the release of Utah Criminal History information to qualifying entities. Determination of your agency's eligibility may be made by referring to this code. If your agency qualifies, [download the application](#). (Available on the website).

**Other Employers** - If your agency does not fall under one of the two categories mentioned above, your only option is to request that your employees apply directly to BCI for a copy of their own criminal history. (Find out more about [obtaining a copy of your own Utah criminal history record](#).)

The website is located at: <http://www.des.utah.gov/bci/employees.html>

For more information, please contact BCI (Bureau of Criminal Identification) at (801) 965-4445. Their hours are 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. They are closed Fridays, weekends, and holidays.

We hope you find this bulletin informative!

**SHERIFF BRAD W. SLATER**