

SHERIFF'S BUSINESS WATCH BULLETIN

February 2010 - a

Our Deputies stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. During this stop a K-9 sniff was conducted with a positive hit. The deputies located inside the vehicle some Meth, paraphernalia and stolen property. During the investigation a suspect admitted to recent thefts in West Haven and Ogden. The stolen property included some copper, stainless steel and batteries which had just been sold to a recycling center. Nice work by the officers.

If you or someone you know parks at a Park and Ride please be aware that some vehicles have had their catalytic converters cut off of them.

Please watch what you leave in your vehicles even if you lock them up. Vehicles have been broken into and items removed, this happens at home as well as church. Keep valuables with you or leave them at home. In addition to the theft, you could possibly have to repair your vehicle. Thieves aren't afraid to break windows or pry open doors to get to the items.

We have had multiple cases where the fence is cut and the suspects enter into yards taking items from vehicles, as well, as items laying around the yards. Even if your business has a chain link fence around it, it may not be secure. They especially like electronics and metal that can be sold for scrap (a lot of extension cords have been taken lately). They really love RV's that are being stored because most often the crime isn't reported immediately.

If you work at a storage facility and noticed frequent traffic at a particular unit, maybe even some strange smells. Please call the Sheriff's Office to respond and check it out. There could be illegal activity going on in the unit.

Always be on the watch for Fraudulent scams:

We recently received information on a scam where the suspects have been traveling across the Western United States committing fraud at convenience stores/gas stations. They send a female into the store to ask about applying for a job. She obtains information about the clerk that is on duty, the store manager, the phone number and anything else she can find out about the day to day operations of the store. She then leaves the business, gives the information to a male who then calls the store within 15 minutes. He pretends to be the District Manager and asks the clerk for his or her first name, he makes small talk about the clerk's employment then mentions the store manager by name. He tells the clerk that he (the manager) will be sending a delivery person to the store to exchange a key for the "day drop" of cash, which is needed at another store for the evening shift. The delivery person (the suspect) arrives at the store with a key, and exchanges it for the money and leaves.

Not quite the same scenario but similar. We responded on a suspicious phone call at a local convince store. A male suspect with a middle eastern accent called and wanted to know some information on the business. He asked how many cash registers there were, how many employees, what their working hours were. He stated he was an inspector from the company headquarter office. The suspect hung up and the employee contacted her supervisors, when they checked no one from the corporate office had called them. Please tell your employees to be leery of such calls. Giving out this type of information leaves your business open to robbery as well as burglary.

We also responded on a fraud complaint. A local restaurant received a large order for food by a deaf phone relay line. This person requested the restaurant charge \$1000.00 on one credit card and \$2000.00 on another card. This is well over what the total cost of the food would have been. The suspect then wanted the price of the food deducted from the \$3000.00 and the difference sent Via Western Union to an address he had given. Luckily the restaurant manager checked with the credit card companies and neither card was in the name of the suspect. Credit card companies were made aware of the request.

We hope you found this bulletin informative!

Sheriff Brad W. Slater