



## Summer Safety Tips

Summer is here, and that means nice weather, vacations, and being outdoors. To help you have a safe and enjoyable summer, the Bremerton Police Department asks that you keep the following safety tips in mind:

### Protecting Your Home

- When you are away from home, keep the doors and windows in your home locked, even if you are only leaving your home for a few minutes. If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so your home appears to be occupied.
- Make sure that the doors and windows in garages, sheds, and outbuildings are locked. Even when you are home, keep the doors closed, so the thief or burglar does not get a good look at what you have!
- If you want to leave windows open enough for ventilation, use a dowel for sliding glass windows to allow the window to open no more than a few inches. Some windows have stops installed on the inside track, which will also prevent the window from being opened too far. When at home with your doors open, if you have them, always keep your screen doors locked.
- If you are outside doing yard work, don't make it easy for the burglar or thief! Do not leave your doors unlocked or visibly opened, especially if you cannot see them from where you are working. Make sure that you lock up all of your garden tools, power tools, lawnmowers, and ladders.
- When you are planning for your vacation, have your mail and newspapers stopped or have a neighbor pick them up. Turn on inside lights, (timers are inexpensive) to create the impression that your home is occupied. If you have one, be sure to set your alarm system. If you are gone for a long period of time, make sure to have someone mow your lawn. Do not leave a message on your answering machine, or make any posts on social media sites indicating that you are on vacation.
- If a friend or trusted neighbor is watching your home while you are away, DO NOT hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, under door mats, or above door ledges. That's the first place a burglar is going to look!  
*Instead, give the spare key to the person watching your home.*

- Be alert and call 911 to report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

### Protecting Your Vehicle

**Vehicle prowls increase during the summer months**, and are crimes of opportunity through unlocked doors and windows. Unfortunately, vehicle prowls are very common, but they are preventable. Follow these tips to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle prowl.

- Park in secure, well-lit locations where your vehicle can be seen. Avoid isolated areas, and park near locations frequently used by pedestrians.
- Roll up all windows and lock all doors – this is especially relevant for SUV's.
- Secure the trunk, bed-mounted tool boxes, camper doors and windows, and canopies.
- If your vehicle has an alarm system, activate it.
- Install anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locking devices, switches to interrupt the fuel supply or electrical systems, and locking gas caps to deter fuel from being siphoned.
- Remove your personal property and put it in the trunk *before* you arrive at your location. Do not leave valuables (cameras, CD's, electronic devices, GPS units, luggage or bags, tools, etc.) or cash in your vehicle. The best thing you can do is to bring only the items that are necessary.

### Other Tips

- Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods and residential areas. Drive slowly around parks and playgrounds – more children are out playing in the summer.
- If you ride a bicycle, make sure you obey the rules of the road, always wear a helmet, use front and rear lights at night, wear bright or reflective clothing, and always ride with traffic; never against it. *When you are not riding your bike, lock it up!*
- Never leave children unattended in cars; not even for a short time.
- **Do not drink and drive!**

Contact the Bremerton Police Community Resource Unit at 360.473.5231 for more crime prevention information.