

Statewide Security

31 Years of Service

January 2010



Security News

Burglar and Fire detection, Video Surveillance, Access Control, Gate Automation

Unsettling Crimes

If you live in the greater Seattle areas of Woodinville or North Redmond, the King County Sheriff's Dept. has identified approximately ten criminal groups comprised of about 100 people, from the Lynnwood area, who have targeted the above communities. Some of these burglars have been arrested, but others keep replacing them. I have interviewed several victims of this criminal activity in the past three weeks and they state that they have been aware of unknown people in their back yards at night and suspicious people in their neighborhoods during the day. The crooks will pretend to be solicitors if they ring your doorbell and you answer the door. Please be certain to lock perimeter windows, doors and keep garage doors closed. Most intrusions have been window smashes, and if they had alarm systems, all the intruders would have been detected. If you live in one of these areas and do not have a safe bolted to the floor, I would recommend that you either buy one or move items of high value to a bank safe deposit box until this crime wave peters out, so you are not victims of a smash and grab. Homes with big dogs and active alarm systems are generally being avoided.

We mail out many hundreds of newsletters and many clients tell me they read them and practice the recommendations included and appreciate the information I have attempted to pass along. If you've been reading the newsletter that accompanies your monitoring billing for more

than a year, you've noted some warnings that I have expressed about the changes in behavior that we have seen in criminals over the past five years. We virtually never include any attempts to sell new product because I believe that in most instances the system you currently have is sufficient to protect what you value, if you activate it consistently.

Given the nature of our business at Statewide we are exposed to the world of good and evil on a daily basis. Fortunately, most of our customers do not experience the kind of criminal activity which we work against. Perhaps you installed a security system because you had done so in your last house, yet you seldom turn on the system except when you are on vacation. Others tell me they arm their systems daily and are comforted by the knowledge that they will not find someone in their home that they don't expect to be there.

While we serve clients all over the west, the bulk of our customers reside or do business in the Northwest. If you have watched TV or read the newspaper recently, you have

**"No act of
kindness,
no matter
how small,
is ever
wasted"**

Aesop

seen that five police officers have been assassinated here in the Seattle area in the past thirty days. One killer worked pretty much alone and the other had a whole support network of willing accomplices - ten or more friends and family. We believe that many of the indicators of criminal intent related to these homicides are paralleled in what is happening in other criminal activity that we deal with daily.

We took in our 36th, 37th and 38th stalking or domestic violence case in the past couple of weeks. If you had told me 30 years ago that I would become an expert on stalking and stalkers I would have been surprised. In one instance a homeowner, with three young children at home, found an irrational intruder in his home who claimed that the intruder's wife was being held against her will in the homeowner's residence and he was there to free her. Threats were issued against the homeowner who had never seen this man before and after some gunfire the intruder was subdued and taken into custody. The suspect has claimed in jail interviews that it is his intention to kill everyone in the house as well as any King County Sheriff's Deputies who get in his way when he gets out of jail.

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late"

Ralph Waldo Emerson

In a second case, a client determined that her husband's former girlfriend, from years ago, has been mimicking her postings on Facebook. The wife has seen this old girlfriend surveilling her home and when she attempted to confront the woman outside the home she sped off

leaving a cloud of tire smoke.

The most recent case involves a professional couple that had been receiving "gifts" deposited outside their home each day for two weeks. When one of the victims was confronted at their workplace by the stalker, the stalker wanted to explain why their lives would be so good together. The stalker had developed a complete fantasy about a new life with the victim; this was a very tense and dangerous moment. We never know how far these people have mentally taken their fantasy relationship with the victim. We have often heard from the stalkers that if they cannot have the victim then no other person should have them either.

One of our newer clients previously had vandalism and thefts at their business. When an adjacent business employee came to work early one morning in November he found that the intruders from our client's site had also severely vandalized a vehicle and were carrying a fuel can, apparently intending to start an arson fire at the businesses as well.

This new level of criminal activity seems to cut across all the economic boundaries. We've seen wealthy and average income people, homes and businesses as targets of recent crimes. This is not a one-time spike in crime. Everyone seems to be on edge right now. I recommend that you be more careful than normal in personal dealings with others as we start into the New Year.

Call me if you want to talk about anything in detail. I wish you all a safe and healthy 2010.

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