



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

3715 Bridgeport Way West
University Place, WA 98466

Phone: (253) 566-5656

Fax: (253) 566-5658

October 24th, 2005

CONTACT

Russell Kasselmann
Public Information Officer
253.460.5441
253.820.5772
rkasselmann@cityofup.com

University Place experiences weekend rash of “smash and grab” thefts from vehicles

University Place police took reports of 12 "smash and grab" thefts from vehicles during the Oct. 15-16 weekend at four separate apartment communities. From January to June 2005, University Place police have recorded 244 thefts from vehicles as compared to 125 in the same period in 2004, indicating the city has a growing problem.

To help reduce this type of crime in the city, police are asking residents to be sure they bring all valuables inside at night and lock vehicles to avoid being victimized. Theft from a vehicle is a crime of opportunity, said University Place Public Safety Liaison Jennifer Hales, adding that wallets, purses, cell phones, laptops, car stereos and other expensive electronics left in plain sight in a vehicle are easy targets for determined thieves.

The type of criminal engaged in thefts from cars tends to work quickly, making it difficult to catch them in the act, Hales said. In addition, the stolen items are usually hastily sold for drugs, which compounds the difficulty for detectives trying to solve these crimes.

Considering these factors, residents must take the responsibility on themselves to make their vehicles as unattractive to thieves as possible as well as watching out for any suspicious behavior occurring in their neighborhoods, Hales said. The best advice is when in doubt, take it out! Residents who witness any suspicious behavior are encouraged to dial 911 immediately.

For more information on ways you can keep your property safe, please call University Place Public Safety Liaison Jennifer Hales at (253) 798-3141.

Russell Kasselmann
Public Information Officer
253-460-5441
rkasselmann@cityofup.com