

Community Partnership Connection



TAKE CONTROL!

Don't Allow Yourself to be a Victim of Vehicle Burglaries



Vehicle burglaries are rapidly becoming one of the most common, yet most preventable crimes in northern Nevada.

Vehicle thieves are opportunists. They “shop” in neighborhoods, shopping malls, recreation areas, parks, and more. Some pull on door handles, looking for an unlocked door. Others break in after they “window shop” for electronics, money or valuables that are left in plain view.

Remember, you have **Control!** By following these four steps you can significantly reduce your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle theft.

For more information on how you can prevent vehicle burglaries go to www.washoesherriff.com and click on Staying Safe.

CLEAN it out – remove all valuables from your vehicle.

TAKE your keys with you. Don't leave your car running.

REPORT suspicious activity or persons.

LOCK your doors *every time!*

Child Protection – Abduction and Harm: Prevention Tips for Parents and Guardians



In light of recent events, the Sheriff's Office has been asked by parents for safety tips and guidance on how they can help keep their children safe at school and at home.

Many parents and guardians feel they are faced with new and unprecedented challenges when trying to keep their children safer in today's fast-paced society. Younger children should be supervised by you or another trusted adult, a person you have come to rely on and with whom you and your children feel comfortable. You should teach older children how to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations.

You should not expect your children to rely solely on their judgment about people, even if the person is someone known to you or your family. It is also important not to confuse children with the concept of "strangers." The "stranger-danger" message is not effective, as danger to children is often much greater from someone they or you know. The important message to teach children is to get out of potentially dangerous situations as quickly as possible, no matter whom the person is.

The thought of your children being abducted may leave you feeling frightened and unsure about how to best protect them. In an analysis of more than 8,000 attempted abductions, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® found 40% involved children between the ages of 10 and 14; 72% involved the suspect driving a vehicle; and 83% involved a child who did something proactive to escape the would-be abductor including walking, running, pulling away, yelling, kicking, attracting attention and/or otherwise resisting.

The analysis also revealed the five most common tricks used by individuals attempting to abduct a child included offering a child a ride, offering the child candy or sweets, asking the child questions, offering the child money or using an animal.

Source: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

What can parents/guardians do?

1. Instruct your children to always take a friend when going places, and stay with a group while attending school outings and/or standing at the bus stop.
2. Teach your children the appropriate steps to take if approached or followed, such as loudly yelling "This person is trying to take me!"
3. Instruct your child to make every effort to escape by running, pulling away, kicking, etc.
4. Teach your children it is more important to get out of a threatening situation than it is to be polite. It is okay to be impolite and say "No!"
5. Talk openly to your children about safety and encourage them to tell you or another trusted adult if anyone makes them feel sad, scared or confused.
6. Practice basic safety skills with your children by creating "teachable moments" to make sure they understand the safety messages and are able to use them in real life situations.
7. Be involved in your children's activities. By participating you have a better opportunity to observe how adults in charge interact with children.
8. Remember to never leave children unattended in a vehicle, whether it is running or not.
9. Know where your children are and whom they are with at all times. Make it a rule for your children to check-in with you on a regular basis. Teach your children to never leave school with anyone unless they check with you first, even if someone tells them it's an emergency.
10. Remember you are your best resource for better safeguarding your family. Stay alert, informed and focused about personal security issues. Take time to listen to your children, it will help them build a feeling of safety and security.

For more information go to www.missingkids.com.



Traffic Distractions Slow Down and Watch for Children!

With summer ending and school starting earlier, there are more distractions when driving than ever. The Sheriff's Office is asking drivers to slow down and be on the alert for children walking to school. Here are some precautions:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones. Come to a full stop and check both ways at stop signs and red lights.

- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours.
- Watch for school bus stop signs. When a school bus stops with brake lights flashing or the stop sign raised, motorists from either direction must stop until all children have safely crossed the road.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving.

Reminders for your kids:

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them.

Nevada Joining Forces Grant Provides New Radar Guns for SO

Washoe County Sheriff's Office efforts to increase public awareness about the dangers of speeding are being helped by a grant from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety's Joining Forces program.

The \$4,600 Joining Forces grant purchased four new radar guns for the Sheriff's Office along with chargers and other support equipment. The Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit plans to use the new equipment during commute hours to encourage drivers to stay safe and drive within the speed limits. Drivers who fail to follow the posted speed limits are at risk of not being able to safely respond to sudden changes in their surroundings, putting themselves and others at risk.

"The Sheriff's Office goal is to make our roads safer by increasing public awareness about the dangers of speeding," Undersheriff Tim Kuzanek said. "This effort has received substantial support from Nevada's Joining Forces program and we sincerely appreciate the valuable partnership that has developed between the Sheriff's Office and Joining Forces through the years."



Joining Forces is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement program that promotes statewide enforcement in the areas of: DUI, seat belt, distracted driving, speed and pedestrian safety. The goal of these enforcement campaigns is to increase public awareness about the dangers of making poor choices while driving.

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**Dedicated Service in
Partnership with our
Community**



Washoe County Residents can now report graffiti from their iPhones or iPads by installing the new WCSO app available for free from the Apple Store.

WCSO featured on the Reality Show *Jail*



Shot on location in cities across the United States, the reality television program *Jail* follows inmates from their initial booking through to their first moments while incarcerated.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office was recently featured in three episodes which will air on Spike Network. Two of the episodes are scheduled to air on Thursday, October 10th and one on Friday, October 11th. Check local listings for times.



Regional Animal Services will offer a free microchipping clinic at the Summit Mall during the inaugural Sheriff's Office K9 Run on Saturday, September 28. The clinic will open at 8:00 a.m. and free microchipping will be available throughout the event. Pet owners are asked to bring their dogs properly leashed and their cats in appropriate cat carriers.

The special Saturday clinic is made possible thanks to support from Maddie's Fund® and is part of a year-long campaign by Regional Animal Services to provide free microchips for all Washoe County pets.

The Sheriff's K9 Run features a 5K, 10K and a Kids 1 Mile Fun Run. This fundraising event is open to all levels of fitness and all ages. Proceeds will go toward equipment and training needed to support the mission of the Washoe County Sheriff's K9 Unit. All participants receive a free t-shirt, finisher's medal and a post-race breakfast. For registration information, visit www.renoringcompany.com.