

SEQUIM POLICE DEPARTMENT
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“Personal Attention to Our Community”

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEQUIM POLICE START NEW CRIME ALERT SYSTEM

The Sequim Police Department announced today that working in cooperation with east end Clallam County businesses and the Port Angeles Police Department, the launch of its version of a business ***“Crime Alert”*** that will help citizens, businesses and the police identify and reduce crime in the City of Sequim and the east end of Clallam County. The Sequim Police will use its fax system and E-mail alerts to notify businesses of crime trends that are occurring so those businesses can prevent losses from such crimes as identity theft, fraudulent/ forged checks and shoplifting trends.

According to Sequim Police Chief Robert Spinks, “there are about one hundred businesses in the Sequim Police “Crime Alert” system. The department sent out its first alert today, which was about bank checks that were stolen from a Sequim residence about a week ago, and one of the checks was forged and passed at a local grocery store this past week.”

Spinks said “the officers, staff and Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) have been working on starting this program for the last several months. Officer Don Reidel brought this idea forward and has been the point person to coordinate the rollout of this new program – he’s done a great job with a great idea. It’s great that our agency has another way to communicate with the public, in this case the business community. This program helps the police do our part to help those businesses know and learn about crimes that affect not only them, but the citizens of our community.” Spinks added; “This

program is in keeping with one of our Guiding Principles; partnering with our community to reduce the fear and incidence of crime.”

According to Reidel, “the Port Angeles Police Department has successfully used their “Fax Alert” to prevent and identify crime in the Port Angeles area, and we have patterned our system after theirs, and put our own “Twist” to the idea by also notifying businesses via E-Mail alerts so businesses not having a fax can be included. When we send out a “Crime Alert” to businesses in Sequim, we will also notify the Port Angeles Police Department. Their officers and staff will then determine if they should extend the alert to businesses in their area. This will work the other way as well, allowing the Port Angeles Police Department to notify us, using their “Fax Alert” system, of potential crime incidents that may affect Sequim.”

Maris Turner, Crime Prevention Officer for the Sequim Police Department said, “Our goals are to identify a scheme or plan that is in early stages, and notify area businesses of crime trends, so that owner’s and employees can help prevent loss for the businesses, and provide leads to the police if the perpetrators try their plan in a business that has been alerted. Providing information on crime trends can help business employees be good witnesses for the police. We do not encourage employees to become actively involved with preventing crimes, other than refusing services if that is in the best interest of the employee and the business”.

Spinks added, “With the City of Sequim becoming a regional retail hub for the county, those people that try to prey on businesses will be coming here to try to ply their trade. This is also an alert to them, that is the people of Sequim will be looking out for each other”.

Businesses interested in being added to the Sequim Crime Alert program, call the Sequim Police Dept. Mon- Fri 8:30- 4:30 at 360-683-7227, and a program form will be sent to them. A version of this is also available to citizens, an email version of our Crime Alerts Program by visiting the police web site at:

<http://www.ci.sequim.wa.us/police/subscribe.cfm>

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