

## NEIGHBORHOOD C.O.P.S. SHOPS

- Greater Spokane C.O.P.S. ....755-2677  
169 S. Stevens St. 99201
- C.O.P.S. East Central.....625-3330  
2116 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. 99202
- C.O.P.S. Logan .....625-3333  
802 E. Sharp Ave. 99202
- C.O.P.S. NEWTECH .....354-7447  
4141 N. Regal St. 99207
- C.O.P.S. Neva-Wood .....625-3353  
4705 N. Addison St. 99207
- C.O.P.S. North Central.....625-3348  
630 W. Shannon Ave. 99205
- C.O.P.S. Northeast.....625-3343  
5208 N. Market St. 99217
- C.O.P.S. Northwest .....625-3336  
2215 W. Wellesley Ave. 99205
- C.O.P.S. North Hill .....625-3346  
Mobile Unit
- C.O.P.S. Southeast.....625-3326  
2809 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave. 99223
- C.O.P.S. West.....625-3340  
1901 W. Boone Ave. 99201

SPOKANE C.O.P.S. Main Office  
1100 W. Mallon Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99260  
509-835-4592

[www.spokanecops.org](http://www.spokanecops.org)

**CRIME CHECK.....456-2233**

## HOW TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM



This brochure can help you  
reduce your chances of becoming  
a victim of crime at home, in your  
car and in public.

**SPOKANE C.O.P.S.**



## INSIDE HOME

- ✦ Keep doors and windows locked. ALWAYS use an in-the-door viewer. Even if alone, have lights on throughout the home.
- ✦ Check ID with door closed or window locked.
- ✦ If solicited, ask to see a business license.
- ✦ NEVER allow a stranger in your home to use the phone!
- ✦ Keep a phone by the bed.
- ✦ If you hear a suspicious noise outside, let the potential intruder know someone is home in some way. Burglars don't like surprises! Call 911 immediately!
- ✦ If you hear noises inside the home, it is best to remain silent, but call 911! If need be, call 911 and hang up. They will call back immediately.
- ✦ Keep an eye out for any suspicious vehicles or persons in the area.
- ✦ Think about listings in the phone book, mailbox or city directory. How much information is being given?



## HOME SECURITY

- ✦ Home should ALWAYS appear occupied.
- ✦ Outside lights should be on at dusk, off at dawn EVERY day. Use timers or photocell fixtures.
- ✦ Shrubbery should be kept trimmed to a height of 3' or less and tree foliage up to 7' to prevent concealment.
- ✦ Entranceway to doors should be kept visible from street.
- ✦ Light bulbs should be checked often. If they are loose or removed, be extra cautious.
- ✦ Don't rely on dogs for protection; consider them an alarm system.

**"Anything that makes you feel unsafe makes a burglar happy and anything you do to feel safer makes a burglar uncomfortable!"**

## ARRIVAL

- ✦ Enter the garage with car doors locked.
- ✦ Check garage interior before getting out.
- ✦ Have your house key ready.
- ✦ Don't leave the house door open when carrying in packages between house and car.
- ✦ Act as though someone is home: "Hi, I'm home!"
- ✦ Timers should provide lights when you arrive.



## WALKING

- ✦ Walk assertively.
- ✦ Make eye contact with strangers.
- ✦ Keep purse/wallet inside your coat, if possible.
- ✦ Walk down the center of the street. If possible, avoid areas that provide cover to potential muggers.
- ✦ Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- ✦ Avoid phone booths, ATMs and other dark areas.

## PHONE

- ✦ Obscene call? Hang up immediately! Disconnect phone or turn off ringer. Call the phone company to trace the call. Then call Crime Check at 456-2233 to file a report.
- ✦ Do not give out information for surveys, contests or any type of solicitation. Most are phony.
- ✦ Use answering machine and always use "we"; "We are not taking calls right now..." Never say "We are not home."

## KEYS

- ✦ Don't put any kind of ID on key ring.
- ✦ Keep ignition key and house key separate.
- ✦ Leave a spare key with a neighbor.
- ✦ Do not put spare keys in obvious places.
- ✦ Re-key locks if you lose your keys or when moving into a new house.

## BUS STOPS

- ✦ Stand where you can be easily seen.
- ✦ Walk to the next stop if you feel threatened.
- ✦ Go to a nearby business.
- ✦ Don't go through your purse; have your money/pass ready.
- ✦ Sit close to the driver.
- ✦ Don't get off at a lonely stop if you feel threatened.
- ✦ Be careful who you talk to.

## PARKING LOTS

- ✦ Park in areas with adequate lighting.
- ✦ Check the area; if nervous, repark in another area.
- ✦ Leave **NOTHING** visible inside the car. Put anything of value in the trunk before you arrive.
- ✦ Vehicle registration and garage door openers should be hidden away.
- ✦ Leave only ignition key with attendant.
- ✦ Keep keys in hand - they can be used as a weapon.
- ✦ Do not put purse in shopping cart.
- ✦ Check interior of the car and those parked nearby. If concerned, enter the car on the passenger side.
- ✦ With a child, get in, lock the doors and then secure the child.
- ✦ Ask someone to check the parking lot or accompany you to your car.
- ✦ Never be forced into the car.
- ✦ Check around: is someone else being victimized? **REPORT IT!**



## VACATION

- ✦ Leave information with a trusted neighbor - dates, locations and license number of car.
- ✦ Postpone delivery of mail and paper.
- ✦ Use timers on lights and radio.
- ✦ Leave curtains partially open.
- ✦ Have a neighbor occasionally park in your driveway.
- ✦ Have someone put your trash container out.

## INTERNET

- ✦ Guard your personal information.
- ✦ Don't provide your credit card or bank account number unless you are actually paying for something.
- ✦ Your social security number should not be necessary unless you are applying for credit.
- ✦ Be especially suspicious if someone claiming to be from a company with whom you have an account asks for information that the business already has.
- ✦ Be cautious about unsolicited emails. They are often fraudulent. Instead of responding to the email asking to be removed from their email list, the best approach may simply be to delete the email.
- ✦ Think twice before entering contests operated by unfamiliar companies.
- ✦ Beware of "dangerous downloads". In downloading programs to see pictures, hear music, play games, etc., you could download a virus that wipes out your computer files.

## FIREARMS



The decision to carry a firearm has significant implications for citizens. Washington State laws are very specific about who may have a permit for a weapon, where and how they may be carried, and places where a citizen may NOT carry a wepon even with a permit. Spokane Police strongly advise citizens to take a certified gun safety course. There are civil and criminal liability concerns that affect anyone with a weapon.



For information, contact the concealed weapon permit desk at the Spokane Public Safety Building, 1100 W. Mallon Ave. Records Information is available at 625-4030.



Two ways to shield yourself from a violent attack.