Lincoln Police Department * Crime Prevention Group * 575 South 10th Street * Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

THE NET

LINCOLN BUSINESS WATCH

CLEARING CRIMES

Through increasingly coordinated efforts between businesses, investigating police officers and other LPD employees we have been able to make arrests on crimes that in the recent past might have gone unsolved. In his blog, "The Chief's Corner", Chief Tom Casady states,

"Our Crimestoppers blog continues to generate lots of activity. So far this month [March 2010], there have been 3,090 visits to the blog, and 89 tips have been received. Capt. Doug Srb, who keeps the stats, tells me that 37.5% of the cases posted on the blog end up cleared. That's a huge success rate, when you figure that these are all unidentified suspects. We would rarely solve these types of cases without information from the public."

The various avenues of **Crimestoppers** (calling, texting, or on-line) continue to provide important information that investigators can use to piece "the puzzle" together.

YEAR-END OVERVIEW

Here are some totals of reported crimes and police activity through 2009:

Lincoln Police officers wrote-

- 48,290 traffic tickets
- 42,524 warning tickets
- 2,330 DWI arrests
- 25,789 misdemeanor arrests
- 2,394 felony arrests

Reported crimes:

- There were 190 robbery reports made which includes both business and street robberies.
- There were 355 commercial burglaries reported (a 7.3% increase from the previous year).
- There were 7,912 thefts reported (a 3.5% decrease from 2008).
- There were 1,773 shoplifts reported (an 8.4% increase).

Into the first quarter of 2010 all of the reported crimes have gone down in numbers except for commercial burglaries (23 reported during this time in 2009 and 35 reported so far this year).

LAYERING SECURITY

It's important in managing your business to periodically review the physical security of your property. Burglars are always looking for that quick and easy score. Think of security in a layered approach. When looking at improving security consider the following elements: outer perimeter; building exterior; inner perimeter; and, final protective line.

The outer perimeter extends away from the business to include the parking lot. Lighting and terrain are the biggest concerns. Signs indicating when patrons are welcome and when loiterers are not might be something to consider.

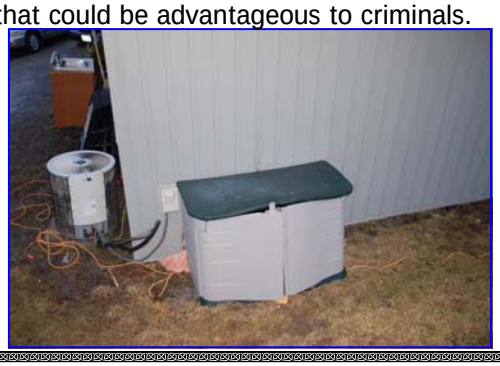
Exterior concerns also start with lighting and then go to visibility from outside to inside the building. Signs indicating hours of operation and if cameras are present would be a suggestion.

Inner perimeter considerations include alarm systems and the actual placement of cameras.

Your final protective line would include employee/ reception areas and ultimately the office area where computers and cash are present. Safes come in a variety of protective levels and deciding on the type depends on your business needs. A bolt down model is always recommended. Having the office alarmed is an option to consider.

BYOB (bring your own box)

At a recent business burglary in Missouri the criminal provided their own concealment by bringing a small storage box and placing it against a back exterior wall. The rear panel of the storage box was already cut out which allowed the burglar access to the building wall. The burglar then worked to cut through the wall and was able to gain entry to the business. This is a good reminder to routinely check the perimeter of your business and make sure that nothing suspicious or out of the ordinary has been left on your property. Keeping the exterior of your business free of clutter and debris will reduce the likelihood of creating areas of concealment that could be advantageous to criminals.



PLEASE CHECK OUT THESE

ON-LINE RESOURCES:

LINCOLN / LANCASTER COUNTY CRIME STOPPERS
Call 475-3600 !
text LNK402 to CRIMES
www.lincolncrimestoppers.com

CRIMEMAPPING.com
building safer communities

www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police

Read "The Chief's Corner" at: lpd304.blogspot.com

In progress crime?
CALL: 911

Belated crime?
CALL: 441-6000

PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY AT WORK

- Know your company's emergency plans. If your company does not have an emergency plan, volunteer to help develop one.
- Support each other. Determine how you will help each other in the event that public transportation is down or thoroughfares are impassable. Are there employees who could temporarily house, transport, or feed other employees?
- Know the exit routes and evacuation plans in your building. Know at least two exit routes from each room, if possible. Be able to escape in the dark by knowing how many desks or cubicles are between your workstation and two of the nearest exits. Know the location of fire extinguishers and medical kits.
- Make sure there is a designated meeting location and that every employee knows what it is.
- Make special emergency plans for co-workers who are disabled or may require assistance during an emergency.
- Never lock fire exits or block doorways, halls, or stairways. However, keep fire doors closed to slow the spread of smoke and fire.
- Keep your own personal emergency supplies in a desk drawer. Consider a flashlight, walking shoes, a water bottle, and nonperishable food. Contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency for information on workplace emergency kits.
- Have a printed list of important phone numbers (e.g., your spouse's number at work, your children's school numbers) at your desk. Do not rely on electronic lists, such as direct-dial phone numbers and computer organizers.

Information provided by the National Crime Prevention Council

CRIMINAL HISTORIES CAN HELP PREVENT BECOMING A VICTIM

The Lincoln Police Technical Investigations Unit worked 158 embezzlement cases in 2009 (32 so far in 2010). During the investigations the detectives discovered that a significant number of the employees responsible had previous arrests and convictions for similar crimes in their past. If the employer had done a thorough background check as part of their hiring practices some of these criminals would not have been employed at the type of businesses that were victimized. Doing a criminal history check may also help employers avoid potential problems associated with hiring persons who have past arrests for violent crimes, sex crimes, theft or fraud crimes.

The Lincoln Police Department web-site has a convenient tutorial to guide you through the public avenues available for criminal history research. You will find that information at:

http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/police/forms/chistory.htm

WORKPLACE SAFETY TIPS

As you arrive– parking your car:

- Park close to the building or in a well lit area. Park close to a light if you will be returning after dark.
- Make sure your car is locked
- Keep valuables (CD's, iPods, purses, briefcases) out of sight or locked in the trunk.
- Wallets should be carried in an inside or front pocket.
- Purses should be tucked close to the body with the flap facing in.

While at work:

- Find a secure spot to put your purse, wallet, keys or other valuables.
- If you encounter someone you do not know in your work area, try to greet them and ask them questions about why they are there or who they want to see.
- Consider who is around as you are engaging in conversations. Do not discuss your personal life, social plans, or upcoming vacation in front of clients or customers you don't know.

Leaving work:

- Have the keys in your hand as you approach your car.
- When approaching your car, look for anything that appears out of place.
- If someone is loitering nearby or your car appears to have been broken into, return to the building and call the police.
- Before getting into your car check the backseat and floor.