



— SASKATOON —
POLICE SERVICE
BE THE DIFFERENCE

**Preventing and
Reporting Crime**

Information for the Business
Community

2022

Table of Contents

- [Preventing Criminal Activity](#)
 - [Personal Safety](#) (4-5)
 - [Situational Awareness](#) (6)
 - [Role of Police](#) (7)
 - [Robbery Prevention](#) (8)
 - [Theft and Fraud](#) (9)
 - [Break and Enter](#) (10)
 - [Threat Assessment](#) (11)
- Reporting Crime
 - [When to Report](#) (12)
 - [What to Report](#) (13)
 - [How to Report](#) (14)
 - [Why Report](#) (15)
 - [What to Provide to Police](#) (16)



Preventing Criminal Activity

- Being active while inside will increase situational awareness and demonstrate professionalism. Walking around engaging in verbal conversation with people/customers is useful in rapport building
- Develop store policy to restrict the use of back packs for customers while inside the store. Many people who commit crime utilize back packs to conceal items
- Maintain visibility within the store. Limit amount of advertising/decals on windows to avoid clear sight lines to and from business. Placing the payment counter near the front of the store is useful and is safer than using the back of the store
- Install proper surveillance cameras within the store that cover all areas. Avoid putting expensive items in easy access areas and consider placing some items behind a locked cabinet
- Installing signage on business doors that specify “No loitering, violators will be ticketed” in conjunction with SPS logo can be useful in reducing and stopping loitering within private business



Personal Safety

- Always know your location (street address, what hundred block, which alley, landmarks, etc.)
- Always carry a cell phone, have a system in place with family or friends/co-workers so that they know where you are and approximately how long you will be there, so they know to check on you should you be gone longer than expected
- Lock your vehicle doors, remove all valuables from inside or hide within vehicle
- Walk in pairs when possible
- Walk in well lit areas and avoid alleys, unlit streets and vacant lots



Personal Safety

- Stay calm if you are feeling threatened by someone
- Always walk with your head up, remain alert
- If you feel you're being followed, go to the nearest well lit, populated area (stores, other businesses, crowds)
- If you're sitting in your vehicle, lock your doors, you can't see who might be approaching if your head is down



Situational Awareness

- Always be aware of your surroundings:
 - Individuals or groups of people in the area
 - Suspicious behavior
 - Vehicles passing by
 - Needles on the ground/opportunity weapons
 - Unusual sounds (screaming, whistling, animal sounds)

Role of Police

- To promote, influence, and create awareness within the community around safety
- To properly educate employees, property owners and managers how they can take action within their business
- Conduct Criminal Code investigations/Provincial Statute Law investigations
- Work collaboratively with other government agencies to support safe housing/addictions strategies



Robbery Prevention

- Stay calm, do not panic
- Do not escalate the situation by yelling unless help is nearby
- Do as you are told (give them what they are asking for)
- Do not try to be a hero and fight back or disarm someone that has a weapon
- Do try to remember specific details of suspect (clothing, shoes, facial characteristics, if a weapon was presented)
- Reassure them that you will comply with their demands to avoid being hurt
- Do not chase them if they flee the scene

Theft and Fraud

- You cannot prevent criminal activity, however, you can deter it.
- The most common types involving businesses are Theft and Fraud.
- Do not try to apprehend someone responsible for theft or fraud. This can result in managers/employees being hurt. Assume that people are carrying a weapon. Do not attempt to search their bag/backpack.
- Collect as much visual detail as possible including direction traveled once they exit the business.
- Consider removing the tap function from credit machines to pin entry. Many credit/debit cards used with tap complete the fraud. Pin entry limits the capability of the card user.
- Do not provide any personal/business information to anyone through email, phone, or text unless verified. Always ensure you are dealing with a legitimate business before releasing this information
- Lock up personal items at work and restrict access to non-employees in back room. Many thefts occur when employees leave items accessible.



Break and Enter

- If you arrive at work and find a open/broken door or window contact Police immediately. Do not enter as the suspect could still be inside.
- Take the path you used and return to your vehicle. Do not walk around the building as you could contaminate the crime scene and destroy evidence.
- If it is obvious that there is nobody inside, and you do enter to disable an alarm, or turn on lights, do not touch anything until Police have arrived and determined how their investigation will unfold.
- Start collecting information that you can provide Police when they arrive such as: time frame from business closure to opening, who locked the door last, anything obvious that was taken, serial number information.
- Contact the property owner and have them available to assist Police if required. May be needed to secure the building after Police investigation is complete.
- Check video surveillance for any information on suspect(s) identity/vehicle description and provide copy to Police ASAP .



Threats and Assessments

- Is the threat real or fake?
 - Treat all threats as real, the police will determine the seriousness through investigation
- How can I identify a possible threat?
 - Look for changes in behavior if subject is known. Watch for body language (specific threat cues). If not known watch for overly friendly people who want to be close to you. In other cases you will identify threat cues.

When to Report?

- When you or any staff are concerned with a developing situation:
 - Providing dispatch with specific information about the incident.
 - Number of involved persons.
 - Description of what is happening.
 - Are any weapons involved?
 - Is anyone hurt?
 - Where is the suspect(s) now?



What to Report?



- If you have witnessed a crime.
- If you have been the victim of a crime.
- If a crime is in progress.
- If you have any information regarding a crime or criminal activity (past or present).
- Suspicious people, vehicles or activity in your area.



How to Report?

- There are options when reporting incidents to police:
 - Call 9-1-1...Emergencies only
 - (Serious crimes in progress, weapons, break and enters in progress, etc.)
 - Call 306-975-8300 for non - emergencies/Telephone Reporting Unit
 - (Panhandling, public intoxication, suspicious activity/people/vehicles, disturbance, loitering, etc.)
- Online Reporting (saskatoonpolice.ca), certain criteria must be met:
 - There are no known suspects - either person or vehicle.
 - No useable evidence to provide Police.
 - Only certain offences may be reported online:
 - Identity Theft/Fraud scams.
 - Theft under \$5000.
 - Mischief/damage/graffiti.
 - Lost Property.



Why to Report?

- Information is vital to developing and understanding crime trends:
 - Reporting crime is tracked using analytics.
 - Allows divisions to deploy appropriate resources to specific locations identified as a “hot spot”.
 - Ability to link other criminal offences to suspect(s).
 - Allows for greater information sharing across divisions for similar target locations (eg. Vehicles used, suspect descriptions).
 - Generates the greatest chance of solvability through investigation.

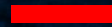


What to Provide to Police?

- Access to video surveillance equipment in a timely manner.
- Usable video surveillance capturing quality images of suspect(s), vehicles, other means of transport.
- Witness statements from everyone involved outlining what happened, providing explicit detail.
- Property list of items stolen including serial numbers.



Thank you



Community Liaison Unit



SASKATOON
POLICE SERVICE
BE THE DIFFERENCE