



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Maureen Harper, Public Information Officer

Desk: 303-235-2877

Mobile: 720-643-6686

mharper@ci.wheatridge.co.us

www.ci.wheatridge.co.us

Wheat Ridge Police Department increases patrols after recent business burglary attempts

Department provides burglary prevention tips to business owners

Wheat Ridge, CO – The Wheat Ridge Police Department has increased police patrols in the city’s commercial districts after a series of recent overnight burglaries and attempted burglaries at local businesses.

The most recent crimes took place in the early morning hours of December 22, 2015. The preliminary investigation into these three crimes indicates that they may have been perpetrated by the same suspect. It is unknown at this time if any of the other burglaries or attempted burglaries are related.

The Wheat Ridge Police Department encourages business owners to become a member of the [S.E.C.U.R.E](#) system, a program that provides the police with emergency contact information in the event a crime occurs at a business property outside of normal business hours. This information can be entered through the [Wheat Ridge Tax Portal](#). In addition, the department’s Crime Prevention Unit offers a [free safety assessment](#) for businesses. For more information on these crime prevention programs, please call 303-235-2910.

The police department also urges business owners to review their security measures and to report any suspicious activity to the police by calling (303) 237-2220. Always dial 911 for emergencies or to report crimes in process.

Tips for Business Owners

- **Report Suspicious Activity**
 - Burglaries may be planned in advance.
 - Report any suspicious activity around your business or a business near yours, even if you just have “gut feeling” that something may be wrong.
 - Train employees to report when customers or others ask about company security, the amount of money the company makes, company hours, who has keys, who is responsible for opening or closing, etc.
- **Inside Your Business**

- Remove all expensive items from window displays at night and make sure you can see easily into your business after closing.
- Keep your cash register in plain view from the outside of your business, so it can be monitored by police during the day or night. Leave it open and empty after closing.
- Be sure your safe is fireproof and securely anchored. It should be kept in plain view. Leave it open when it's empty and use it to lock up valuables when you close. Remember to change the combination when an employee who has had access to it leaves your business.
- Arrange your stock so that a burglar working on a far corner of the shop could be seen by someone walking by.
- **Outside Your Business**
 - Check the parking lot for good lighting and unobstructed views.
 - If you store some of your stock outside, it should be well-lighted and enclosed by a fence. The fence should be high and sturdy.
 - Trim trees and bushes so that they do not become hiding places for burglars by blocking light.
 - Be sure not to have stacked boxes, a vehicle parked close to the building, ladders, or any other items in or around your store that could provide cover for a burglar.
- **Lighting**
 - Light the inside and outside of your business, especially around doors, windows, skylights, or other entry points.
 - Consider installing covers over exterior lights and power sources to deter tampering.
- **Security Measures**
 - Make sure all outside entrances and inside security doors have deadbolt locks. If you use padlocks, they should be made of steel and kept locked at all times. Remember to remove serial numbers from your locks, to prevent unauthorized keys from being made.
 - All outside or security doors should be metal-lined and secured with metal security crossbars. Pin all exposed hinges to prevent removal.
 - Windows should have secure locks and burglar-resistant glass. Consider installing metal grates on all your windows except display windows.
 - Consider using an alarm system. If you have an alarm, make it obvious by placing a decal on the door, a decal on the window, or the alarm somewhere visible from the outside. Learn how to use your system properly. Run regular checks and test the system when closing.
 - Consider using surveillance cameras both inside and outside your business. Make sure they are in good working order.

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Wheat Ridge Police
 7500 West 29th Avenue, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033
 Non-Emergency 303-237-2220