

BUILDER'S WATCH

A partnership between the Calgary Region Home Builders Association and the Calgary Police Service.

Program Report April 2006

The Numbers

	April 2006		April 2005		YTD Total 2006		YTD Total 2005	
	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value
Total Incidents*	24	\$1,281,117	32	\$452,874	124	\$2,950,565	132	\$703,649
Break and enter	18		21		86		106	
Damages	17	\$15,630	12	\$18,734	68	\$41,933	60	\$85,649
Thefts	17	\$50,487	24	\$33,940	100	\$282,932	92	\$217,800
Other			3		6	\$10,700	7	
Arson	1	\$1,215,000	2	\$400,200	1	\$2,615,000	2	\$400,200
(Recovered)		(\$2,500)		(\$410)		(\$62,700)		(\$8,100)

*Each incident can include one or more categories of charge

The Details

Items stolen from residential construction sites in April 2006 included:

- \$19,918 in major appliances (washers, dryers, fridges, stoves, dishwashers)
- \$2,900 in materials (inline furnace fans, windows)
- \$27,669 in tools (contents of utility trailers, plus tools also taken from homes)

Incident locations included:

- 6 SW
- 5 SE
- 10 NW
- 3 NE

The Trends

Damage and theft values increased from the previous month of March 2006. Significantly, two incidents of suspected arson in April caused \$1.215 million in damage, with a previous suspected arson in March causing \$1.4 million in damage.

Incident numbers and theft values were relatively close to this time last year; damage values were up significantly when arson figures were factored in.

In April 2006, just over half of the incidents occurred on the weekend rather than during the week; where a time of day could be identified, approximately two-thirds occurred

during the overnight hours, between the departure of the last contractor one day and the arrival of the first contractor on the following day or days.

Appliances and tools were the primary items stolen this month.

The Incidents

Arson: Arson is always a major concern due to the potential for loss of life. Although incidents of arson may start with houses under construction, they can quickly spread to occupied homes nearby, particularly because it may be some time before the fire is noticed at its start point.

Suspects Identified: The CPS has a suspect and vehicle identified in one incident of theft, with suspect and/or vehicle descriptions in two others. Alert residents and construction workers are credited with notifying police in two incidents that resulted in suspects being identified and/or property being recovered.

Entry Points: Basement windows were a major entry point for break and enters this month. Unlocked windows and doors also remain a concern.

Serial Numbers: Contractors and builders are reminded that recording serial numbers, and make and model types, is an essential tool to assist in the recovery of stolen property.

News Watch

In early May, an article in the Calgary Herald (www.calgaryherald.com) that was headlined “Home-building sites ‘a magnet to arsonists’” quoted a concerned resident in a new-home area with respect to three incidents of suspected arson in such areas over the past two months.

The Calgary Police Service asks all builders to remind staff and site workers to remain vigilant around construction sites. Any suspicious vehicles, and/or persons picking up construction materials (siding, windows, doors, furnaces, OSB sheets, 2x4s, fireplaces, etc.) from new homes under construction, should be reported immediately.

Report any suspicious activity to the CPS at 266-1234.

Report any crime in progress to 911.

Report any information anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

For more information on the Builder’s Watch program, call the Calgary Region Home Builders Association at 235-1911.