

## BUILDER'S WATCH

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

### Program Report February 2006

#### The Numbers

	February 2006		Feb. 2005		YTD Total 2006		YTD Total 2005	
	Incidents	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value
<b>Total Incidents*</b>	20	\$36,165	38	\$52,428	63	\$194,708	59	\$163,135
<b>Break and enter</b>	13		32		44		53	
<b>Damages</b>	6	\$1,010	19	\$27,615	34	\$20,963	26	\$51,665
<b>Thefts</b>	19	\$34,655	22	\$24,813	58	\$163,045	39	\$111,470
<b>Other</b>	1	\$500	1		4	\$10,700	1	
<b>(Recovered)</b>		(\$60,000)		(\$3,490)		(\$60,000)		(\$6,190)

\*Each incident can include one or more categories of charge

#### The Details

Items stolen from residential construction sites in February 2006 included:

- \$7,980 in 6 furnaces and 1 fireplace
- \$8,250 in major appliances (dishwashers, oven, cooktop, microwaves)
- \$3,350 in materials (hardwood, aluminum soffit/fascia)
- \$15,075 in tools (contents of utility trailer, tools also taken from homes)

Incident locations included:

- 6 SW
- 2 SE
- 8 NW
- 3 NE

#### The Trends

Total numbers of incidents, theft value and damage value decreased significantly in comparison to the previous month, January 2006. There was one incident of arson.

Incident numbers and theft value were relatively close to this time last year; damage values were down significantly.

In February 2006, the majority of incidents occurred on the weekdays rather than the weekend; slightly more than half 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.

## **The Incidents**

**Recovery of Stolen Tools:** A three-month District 7 investigation into the theft of building materials and tools from new home construction sites in northwest Calgary resulted in the seizure on Feb. 22, 2006 of more than \$60,000 in stolen goods, and 18 charges against two men. Some of the rightful property owners have now been located, but numerous other victims have yet to be identified. The CPS requests that any trades person who had tools or equipment stolen from a construction trailer in the five weeks prior to Feb. 22 contact District 7 at 567-6700, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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

**Private Security Officer Alerts CPS:** A private security officer on routine patrol in a new home construction area identified a theft in progress and alerted CPS.

**Furnace Thefts:** Several furnace thefts occurred from homes that either weren't secured, or could not be secured (no doors). CPS recommends timing furnace delivery to the lock-up stage.

## **News Watch**

Canadian Underwriter ([www.cdnunderwriter.com](http://www.cdnunderwriter.com)) reports that construction theft in the U.S. areas hit hard by hurricanes last year is hampering efforts to rebuild. Targets include equipment such as skid steer loaders and backhoes.

The Daily Journal of Commerce ([www.djc-or.com](http://www.djc-or.com)) reports that high metal prices have sparked an all-time high for metal theft (particularly copper wire) from construction sites in Oregon, prompting crime prevention initiatives. These include lobbying affected areas to place controls on the sale of scrap metal.

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.*