

BUILDER'S WATCH

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

Program Report January 2006

The Numbers

	January 2006		Jan. 2005		YTD Total 2006		Total 2005	
	Incidents	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value
Total Incidents*	43	\$158,543	21	\$110,707	43	\$158,543	21	\$110,707
Break and enter	31		21		31		21	
Damages	28	\$19,953	7	\$24,050	28	\$19,953	7	\$24,050
Thefts	39	\$128,390	17	\$86,657	39	\$128,390	17	\$86,657
Other	3	\$10,200			3	\$10,200		
(Recovered)				(2,700)				(2,700)

*Each incident can include one or more categories of charge

The Details

Items stolen from residential construction sites in December 2005 included:

- \$3,950 in 3 fireplaces and 1 furnace
- \$30,670 in major appliances (dishwashers, washers, dryers, fridges stoves, microwaves)
- \$20,160 in materials (copper fittings, hardwood, studs, windows)
- \$73,610 in tools (saws, contents of utility trailers)

Incident locations included:

- 21 SW
- 3 SE
- 12 NW
- 7 NE

The Trends

Total numbers of incidents increased to 43 in Jan. 2006 from 33 the previous month. They were twice as high as in Jan. 2005.

Theft values more than doubled in Jan. 2006 compared to the previous month. They were also twice as high as in Jan. 2005.

Damage values also increased compared to both the previous month and the same time last year. There were also two incidents of arson (calculated under “other”).

The most significant spike in thefts involved tools, particularly tools from utility trailers left overnight at construction sites. A significant number of the tools stolen did not have their serial numbers recorded, making it much more difficult to trace the rightful owners.

In January 2006, two thirds of incidents occurred on the weekend; most 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

Utility Trailers: These vehicles remain easy targets for theft. Many are secured only with a padlock, and are vulnerable when left behind at a new home construction site overnight. Potential risks include few nearby neighbours, dark or secluded areas, and relatively easy access into the trailers. Contractors are urged to take additional precautions to avoid becoming victims of these thefts.

Serial Numbers: Contractors and builders are reminded that recording serial numbers is an essential tool to assist in the recovery of stolen property. (In addition to tools, several stolen appliances lacked recorded serial numbers this month.)

Apartment complexes: Several incidents this month took place at apartment complexes under construction.

Arrest: In one incident, a suspect was identified and arrested during an attempted theft.

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.