

BUILDER'S WATCH

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

Program Report March 2006

The Numbers

	March 2006		March 2005		YTD Total 2006		YTD Total 2005	
	Incidents	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value
Total Incidents*	37	\$74,740	41	\$87,640	100	\$269,448	100	\$250,775
Break and enter	24		32		68		85	
Damages	17	\$5,340	22	\$15,250	51	\$26,303	48	\$66,915
Thefts	25	\$69,400	29	\$72,390	83	\$232,445	68	\$183,860
Other	2		3		6	\$10,700	4	
Arson								
(Recovered)		(\$200)		\$1,500		(\$60,200)		\$7,690

*Each incident can include one or more categories of charge

The Details

Items stolen from residential construction sites in March 2006 included:

- \$6,641 in 1 furnace and 2 fireplaces
- \$29,017 in major appliances (washers, dryers, fridges, stoves, dishwashers)
- \$8,181 in materials (hardwood, door frame, plywood, insulation, light fixtures)
- \$25,561 in tools (contents of utility trailers, plus tools also taken from homes)

Incident locations included:

- 11 SW
- 6 SE
- 14 NW
- 5 NE

The Trends

Total numbers of incidents, theft value and damage value increased significantly in comparison to the previous month, February 2006.

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

In March 2006, two thirds of the incidents occurred on the weekdays rather than the weekend; where a time of day could be identified, approximately 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.

Construction trailers remain a popular target for tool theft. Appliances were also targeted, with seven incidents of theft and three of attempted appliance theft.

The Incidents

Suspects Arrested: Two suspects were arrested in one incident (including one young offender) and three in another incident. In four other incidents, the CPS has suspect or vehicle descriptions.

Unlocked Entry Points: In six incidents this month, suspects gained entry into the home through unlocked doors, windows or garage doors.

Keys: In another three incidents, suspects used keys to enter the homes under construction.

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

News Watch

The Burleson-Crowley Connection (www.BurlesonCrowley.com) in Texas reported earlier this year that downtime related to construction theft costs contractors roughly three times more than the items that were stolen.

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.