

NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION SITE REPORT

*A Monthly Review of Theft and Damage Reports to the Calgary Police Service
from New Home Construction Sites in Calgary*

August 2006

The Numbers

	August 2006		August 2005		YTD Total 2006		YTD Total 2005	
	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value	Inc.	Value
Total Incidents*	18	\$71,317	31	\$50,027	189	\$3,326,574	240	\$967,024
Break and enter	10		20		130		181	
Damage	8	\$14,550	9	\$8,250	105	\$180,828	95	\$165,466
Thefts	13	\$56,767	22	\$41,777	145	\$520,046	168	\$401,358
Other			1		6	\$10,700	13	
Arson					1	\$2,615,000	2	\$400,200
(Recovered)				(\$1,076)		(\$67,340)		(\$9,176)

*Each incident can include one or more categories of charge

The Details

Items stolen from residential construction sites in August 2006 included:

- \$6,400 in major appliances (fridge, TV, computer monitor)
- \$1,500 in 1 furnace
- \$8,157 in materials (hardwood flooring, doors, cabinets, lumber, electrical cable)
- \$40,710 in tools (laser levels, nailer, air compressors, ladders, pressure washer, etc.)

Incident locations included:

- 4 SW
- 4 SE
- 5 NW
- 5 NE

The Trends

Incident numbers remained similar to the previous month, but theft and damage values increased. Both theft and damage values were also up compared to 2005.

In August 2006, approximately three-quarters of the incidents occurred on weekdays and one quarter occurred on weekends. Where a time of day could be identified, overnight hours, between the departure of the last contractor one day and the arrival of the first contractor on the following day or days, remained the most common time, although daylight incidents also took place.

Appliances, tools and materials continued to be the primary theft targets.

The Incidents

Furnace Theft: Although small numbers of furnace thefts are being currently reported, there is a similarity in how some are being stolen: they're being un-installed from the home, and the home shows no forced entry. As the weather cools during fall, it can be expected that furnace theft attempts will increase.

Tools Unattended: In several incidents of tool theft, the tools were stolen when a contractor briefly left them unattended in an area that was not secure. If contractors cannot remain with their tools, the CPS strongly advises that the tools be secured. It is possible that suspects watch for easier targets such as contractor lunch or coffee breaks.

Damage: Damage to windows was a major concern in August, with four incidents (involving a total of nine houses) in which windows were damaged by pellet or BB guns.

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.

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.

****The information in this report is based on cases reported to the Calgary Police Service by the new home construction industry in Calgary, and is made available at www.calgarypolice.ca as a public service to the industry. Questions about this report may be addressed to the Calgary Police Service Crime Prevention Unit.****