

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*

December 2006

The Numbers

| | December 2006 | | December 2005 | | YTD Total 2006 | | YTD Total 2005 | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Inc. | Value | Inc. | Value | Inc. | Value | Inc. | Value |
| Total Incidents* | 12 | \$30,667 | 33 | \$58,802 | 242 | \$3,494,054 | 343 | \$1,253,741 |
| Break and enter | 10 | | 27 | | 172 | | 257 | |
| Damage | 4 | \$2,450 | 11 | \$4,380 | 121 | \$206,420 | 152 | \$211,796 |
| Thefts | 12 | \$28,217 | 26 | \$54,422 | 191 | \$661,934 | 246 | \$639,745 |
| Other | | | 5 | | 6 | \$10,700 | 20 | |
| Arson | | | | | 1 | \$2,615,000 | 2 | \$400,200 |
| (Recovered) | | (\$800) | | (\$23,550) | | (\$68,140) | | (\$33,971) |

*Each incident can include one or more categories of charge

The Details

Items stolen from residential construction sites in December 2006 included:

- \$5,660 in major appliances and furniture (TV, computer, dishwashers)
- \$9,290 in 4 furnaces and 2 fireplaces
- \$4,605 in materials (hardwood, bathtub)
- \$8,662 in tools (saw, utility trailer contents)

Incident locations included:

- 4 SW
- 2 SE
- 3 NW
- 3 NE

The Trends

Incident numbers and theft values decreased compared to the previous month; damage values were comparable. Incident numbers and all values were down compared to December 2005.

In December 2006, three quarters of the incidents occurred on weekends; one third during the week. All incidents occurred in 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.

Tools (including another incident in which a construction trailer was targeted) remained a strong target, and furnaces also returned to the list of targets.

The Incidents

Securing Garage Doors. In several incidents, entry was gained through unlocked garage doors, which led the intruders to unlocked entry doors into the house itself. Unlocked basement windows also remain a common entry point.

Arrest. A CPS patrol noted a suspicious vehicle in one area of new homes under construction, resulting in the apprehension and arrest of one suspect, who has now been charged.

Serial Numbers: In one significant incident involving tool theft, no serial numbers were available. 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 News

According to the Canadian Press (Monday Dec. 11, 2006), high copper prices led thieves in Washington state to steal power lines that were downed during November snowstorms.

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.****