



POST FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
BLOCK WATCH NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2010



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Well, we are halfway through the winter! I'm sure there is still some snow to come, so please remember to not deposit snow from your property onto the city streets. Drive safely and stay warm! Here are a few tips and updates to keep you informed!

Staying Informed!

The Post Falls Police Department has created an alert system for the citizens of Post Falls. If you visit our website at postfallspolice.com and on the right hand side click the link that says PFPD Email Dispatch and enter your email address. This link may be renamed soon, but for now it is PFPD Email Dispatch. There are several topics to receive updates on, for example: general news and information, press releases, breaking news, OASIS, animal safety, and community services. You can choose all or one topic and then you will receive those updates in your email. This is how the Police Department is now going to be sending out the Block Watch Newsletters, crime maps and other important information!

Block Watch Meetings

If you are having a Block Watch meeting and would like us to stop by and say hi, please feel free to email me at aschild@postfallspolice.com and either myself or another officer will come by!

Also, if you know a Block Watch Neighborhood that may have fallen apart for a while or you think may not be informed of our new website updates, could you pass on this information to them and help them get signed up. I would greatly appreciate an email from Captains who I have not met, so that I can get their current contact information and keep them updated as well.

Do Not Call! Do Not Write List!

The do-not-call list was created in 2003 to remove a powerful irritant from the lives of Americans, unwanted phone solicitation. The popularity of the do-not-call list created a demand for other opt-out lists. A consumer can now opt-out of the standard practice of their banks or loan companies selling their information to others. Not only do the opt-out lists help to relieve unwanted interruptions, they can protect your personal information from identity thieves.

Here is a master list of where you can take control:

Phone Solicitations: Go to donotcall.gov and register your phone number. You can register cell phone numbers as well; registrations are good for five years.

E-mail: Do not respond to any unsolicited e-mail message when it gives you the option to opt-out of receiving more e-mail. This is a trick used by spammers to confirm they hit a good address. Once that happens, your address goes to a prime list and is sold to other spammers. You may even find legitimate businesses eventually using the list.

Credit Card Offers: Call (888)-567-8688, but... Be ready to give out some personal information like your social security number. The major credit bureaus, like Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion, that collect information on our borrowing habits let you opt-out of what they call prescreened credit offers at www.optoutprescreen.com. You can opt-out for five years or permanently.

Social Security Number: Controlling Identity Theft: Originally, your Social Security number (SSN) was a way for the government to track your earnings and pay you retirement benefits. But over the years, it has become much more than that. With your SSN, an identity thief can get your bank accounts, your charge accounts, and utilities. A thief can also use your number to open new credit and bank accounts or to get a driver's license—all using your identity. Don't carry your SSN card with you; keep it in a safe place at home. Check for other cards you might carry with your SSN on them.

There is no law that prevents a business from asking for your SSN. And you may be denied service if you don't provide the number. Just simply ask if you can show an optional form of identification, or ask if the business can use another number as your customer number. If you do have to use your number for instance at the DMV, welfare office, or a tax agency, check the form, it should state if giving the number is required or optional.

Social Security Number theft prevention: If you think an identity thief is using your SSN, call the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271 or visit their website at <http://www.ssa.gov/oig/hotline/index.htm>. Check out the Social Security Administration's booklet "When Someone Misuses Your Number" available at www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html

If you or any member of your family becomes a victim of identity theft:

1. Call the local law enforcement agency to make a report.
2. Call the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) 1-877-IDTHEFT /1-877-438-4338
3. Contact any one of the three credit bureaus to initiate a fraud alert and obtain a copy of your credit report. Call:

Equifax 1-800-525-6285

Experian 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

They will require your police report number and will contact the other two bureaus.

In the Loop:

We have compiled a list of reported burglaries and vandalism in the City of Post Falls. Along with any pertinent information you may need to be aware of. We have provided a map labeling the four "districts" within the city of Post Falls on our website. Go to the Community Services link, then go to Block Watch and click "district map". In the months of October, November, and December 2009 the following incidents were reported.

District #1= listed 3 auto burglaries, 1 residential burglaries, 2 non residential burglary, and 10 vandalism reported.

District #2 = listed 15 auto burglaries, 4 residential burglaries, 2 non residential burglaries, and 29 vandalism reported.

District #3 = listed 7 auto burglaries, 7 residential burglaries, 1 non residential burglaries, and 11 vandalism reported.

District #4= listed 9 auto burglaries, 1 residential burglaries, 1 non residential burglaries, with 15 vandalism reported.

If you see anything out of the ordinary, have questions, or concerns please call the Post Falls Police Department (208) 773-3517 or come see us at 1717 E Polston Ave, Post Falls ID.