

City of Spokane
Property Crimes information

Rev. 10/27/2011

The Spokane Police Department still responds to property crimes. However, the department has changed its approach to investigating such crimes. The SPD is focusing on those property crimes that will deliver the greatest results for the safety of citizens.

The Police Department has had to reprioritize work to reflect budget realities. We no longer have a dedicated property crimes detective unit. That means our detectives are assigned to cases in a variety of areas; we don't have detectives that are specifically assigned just to property crimes.

Property crimes are a lower priority than crimes against persons and immediate 9-1-1 calls for emergency service by citizens. Those calls have a greater impact on public safety.

Here's what we **are** doing to address property crimes:

- SPD Patrol officers will continue to respond to all reported burglaries. Burglary—which includes unlawfully entering a building with the intent to commit a crime—is a crime, and we will respond and investigate.
- Once a patrol officer has completed an initial investigation on a property crime and filed a report, we will follow up with additional investigation depending on the circumstances of the case and available resources and existing workload.
- We will focus on cases where:
 - The officer has made an arrest or written an affidavit requesting a charge.
 - The suspect is a prolific or active offender. Our crime analysis shows that some offenders commit so many property crimes that crime rates drop when they are incarcerated.
 - The individual event is part of a specific crime trend.
 - Circumstances indicate a good likelihood of establishing probable cause and sufficient evidence for successful prosecution.

The SPD is putting resources where it can get the greatest results for citizens within its budget constraints. This includes a pro-active effort by patrol officers, PACT (Patrol Anti-Crime Team), and the detectives in the Targeted Crimes Unit.

The Mayor has focused resources on public safety in her 2012 Budget proposal. The proposal preserves 13 police officer positions that were slated for elimination in 2012. It also adds five officers to serve the West Plains annexation area, and allows for the filling of all current vacancies in the department.

Those added resources for police will help improve the investigation rate of property crimes over time.