

**Crime Prevention
Stay Safe
Ellensburg Police Department**

The **Ellensburg Police Department** believes in maintaining open lines of communication with the public in order to encourage citizens to voice their opinions, concerns and suggestions for ways to improve quality of life in the City of Ellensburg. As such, the Police Department is committed to establishing close ties with and responding to the needs of the community while developing and perpetuating community-relations and crime prevention programs.

The Ellensburg Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe by providing information on current scams, identity theft, child abduction safety and implementing programs such as National Night Out and the Citizen's Academy.

Child Abduction Safety

Recent crimes against children, although a rare occurrence, have left many parents frightened and unsure about how best to protect their children. The heightened awareness of crimes against children and of missing children in particular, has left many families feeling uneasy. It is important that parents be aware and alert, but you and your child do not need to be afraid.

The following is a list of prevention tips for parents to practice with their children:

- Never let your child go anywhere alone.
- Know where and with whom your child is with at all times.
- Practice what-if scenarios with your child. Teach your child a stranger is anyone you don't know.
- If someone grabs your child teach your child to yell, "This is not my mom/dad".
- If confronted by a stranger your child should run to a crowded area.
- Make sure your child walks to school with friends. Never walk alone.
- Remind your child you will never have anyone pick them up, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Identity Theft

What is Identity Theft? Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, or credit card number, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

As many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year.

Identity thieves may rent an apartment, obtain a credit card, or establish a telephone account in your name.

You may not know your identity has been stolen until you check your credit card statement - or are contacted by a debt collector!

Identity theft can be costly!

What do I do if I think my identity is being used?

- File a police report.
- Check your credit reports.
- Notify creditors.
- Dispute any unauthorized transactions.

National Night Out

What is National Night Out? Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), National Night Out is the nation's night out against crime.

National Night Out encourages:

- Neighborhood Block Party
- Free BBQ
- Other outdoor events to build neighborhood spirit and unity

Research shows that when neighbors know each other and look out for each other crime goes down.

Ellensburg's National Night Out

Each year on the first Tuesday in August, this event is celebrated in communities throughout the United States. The Ellensburg Police Department has participated in National Night Out since 2008.

Our focus has been keeping our children safe where we have helped parents establish a child identification kit as well as providing safety tips and activities for children. We sponsored a BBQ which is free to everyone.

