

THE IMPORTANCE OF CRIME REPORTING & DISORDER

Recently, a member of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) received a letter relating to a publication in a local community newspaper. The writer stated that their vehicle, as well as a number of other vehicles on the street, had been broken into. This was the second time this had happened.

“Please report, every little bit helps; next will be our garages and homes.”

“I just think it’s really important for our neighbours to report even the smallest things, it seems like it escalates from this point”

This writer identified one of the most important things that residents can do when you or a neighbour is the victim of any type of crime – report it! Both the frequency and severity of occurrences will increase if they are not dealt with.

The importance of reporting crime and disorder, regardless of severity, is absolutely vital for the Edmonton Police Service and your community. There are numerous resources within the EPS that, on a daily basis, monitor crime and disorder, analyze it for patterns and send the information to front-line members so they can visit areas targeted by offenders. From this, target areas are identified, and, on numerous occasions, the individuals responsible are also identified. The final result, although not always seen, is an arrest for the original crime reported, or for other occurrences. You can see these maps on the internet at <http://crimemapping.edmontonpolice.ca>

Each day, analysts put together a map of the divisions, recording and illustrating every crime that occurs in the division. Further, reports of disorder issues are also documented. On a weekly basis, the Community Liaison Constables, Community Sergeants, Beat Sergeants, as well as divisional management, meet, review, and discuss crime patterns and emerging hotspots. From these meetings strategies are developed, discussed and utilized by the members of each division.

Proactive patrols, beat patrols, and proactive policing events, are responses to the emerging crime and disorder patterns documented. In many cases, when a police car or a police officer is noted in your neighborhood, they are visiting a target area.

The key is the initial reporting of an incident. The EPS cannot address crimes or hotspots if they are not notified. Reporting an incident can take as little as 15 minutes. Reports can be made by attending a community or divisional station or calling the police dispatch line at 780-423-4567.

Your best weapon is your brain. Use common sense, imagination, and good judgment.