

Security News

30 Year Anniversary

"Boy Scouts" by Jim O'Donnell

The motto of the Boy Scouts of America is "Be Prepared". **Be prepared for what?** The answer to that question is always supplied by the questioner themselves. Being a former Boy Scout and Sheriff's Deputy, I have followed this motto my whole life. If you prepare for bad situations, any lesser event becomes much more manageable. We cannot all live for each "worst case scenario" so we have to use common sense for the events that actually might happen to each of us based on where we live, who is in our family and the particulars of our individual lifestyles. If you don't fly a private airplane, knowing how to strap on a parachute is probably a wasted exercise. Appropriate preparation allows you to turn what might be a catastrophe into an extended inconvenience.

Last week the Federal Government predicted an attack in the next five years on one or more American cities by extremists using a nuclear bomb, chemical weapons or biological agents. An attack on more than one city guarantees that needs will greatly exceed these agency's capabilities and resources. Having seen how overwhelmed the local, State and Federal governments were during Katrina, we should all be prepared to take care of ourselves as much as possible. This doesn't mean you need an underground shelter in your backyard, but prudent people will recognize certain realities, uncomfortable as they may be and prepare to help themselves and their neighbors.

Food Availability:

We have recently installed and serviced video surveillance systems in a number of food distribution warehouses. These million square foot and larger facilities all have one thing in common. They ship out all the food about every three days. Once the incoming food no longer arrives at the warehouses because of supply disruption, they won't be shipping to your local grocery store which only has a one-to-three day supply of food inside the store. In an emergency, assuming your car works and that you have gas, that you can drive on the roads and that you can find a grocery store open when you have the time or the cash to purchase anything, will there be any food there? That might seem hard to fathom as most people have never seen an

empty store. I have seen grocery stores stripped of all products three times in my life and it is quite unsettling.

During the last big ice storm in Seattle if you could find a gas station with power and fuel you considered yourself lucky. Most stations had fuel but no electricity and hence, no way to get the gas out of the tanks. Lines took hours to get to the pumps and after only a day or two people were becoming desperate and combative in the lines. Our requests for service went up significantly during the storm and our signal activity from alarm systems skyrocketed.

Statewide Security is not just a normal alarm company that installs a system in your house or business and then bills you every quarter for monitoring. When you became our customer, we accepted a responsibility to help you during an emergency. Some of this is the dissemination of information outside of regular alarm system and security news and some is for physical product management. We certainly don't expect a Katrina-like event in our area next month or next year. We don't know if one will ever happen in our general service areas but the fact that our government is predicting an attack spurs us on to be more proactive in protecting what you value. You should know that we are equipped to get to you if it is possible to drive on the roads and to supply many forms of emergency assistance that go beyond just alarm, access control and video surveillance services.

Take stock and evaluate if you have supplies on hand to be able to feed your family, provide electricity, cook food and take care of yourselves for at least two weeks in an "event". If you would like more personalized information on preparations that you could take, sources for products or to discuss what we at Statewide have completed, call me at the office 800-215-6555 or drop me an email at swidejimodonnell@aol.com.

We're still Boy Scouts and "We Are Prepared".

Jim O'Donnell

Cell-206-510-9332 Office: 425-558-4640

swidejimodonnell@aol.com



Background Investigations

Police arrested a school janitor in 2008 who had a criminal records check done by the Washington State Patrol as part of a “background investigation”. The database that the State patrol employed did not indicate that the man was a convicted child molester and registered sex offender in another state. You can avoid this same risk by doing a much more thorough records search.

The Medina Police Department reported recently that it was investigating a woman who has worked for many area families as an overnight pet sitter and dog walker. Interviews with many of the victims showed that she was referred by friends and neighbors to residents in need of personal services from someone they could occasionally employ in their homes.

This mature woman apparently came across to people as trustworthy, evidenced by the huge number of residences where she was given free access to virtually all areas of the home. When minor items started missing, she was dismissed or never hired again for another assignment. When the crimes escalated and exceptionally valuable art work, jewelry and home items disappeared she was investigated by the police. She reportedly pawned over \$60,000 in jewelry from one home. After further investigation into her background it turns out that this woman has a history of felony convictions in Washington and Alaska.

We invite a long list of people into our homes or businesses we regularly don't even know, such as the full names of contractors, window washers, carpet cleaners, janitorial crews, pet sitters and child sitters. These people may have worked for neighbors and friends and that “they did okay” is all some people need to justify employing them. They are often given door keys, alarm codes, ac-

cess to private or sensitive areas and to our children, and we don't really know them do we?

I have yet to meet a person, who when asked if they are a good judge of character will admit that they are not. My own negative experiences with prospective employees has shown that they will never tell you about their past if it might make them ineligible for a position. There is a great deal of falsification or misinformation presented that will regularly leave out embarrassing parts of people's lives. As the economy continues to decline and jobs become more scarce people will become more desperate for employment and will hide their past or try to embellish their skills. It is important to select a background investigator that has the ability to do an intelligent job; some investigations can be simple and miss a lot of information we should know. The cost of the research is related to how much work the investigator has to do to make you comfortable that the person is who they claim to be.

If you value your home or business, your assets and family members, there are no one-price-covers-all records checks when it comes to investigating a person's history. Hire a professional to do this work, discuss the process with them so you fully understand the value of the investigator's experience and how they see small clues and details that lead into opening up historical documents that will eventually protect you from making an uninformed decision. Statewide uses Trident Investigations and they have our implicit trust. Talk with total confidence to Renee Canaan at Trident Investigative Service, Inc., (253) 852-7000. Trident has decades of combined experience and are honest and fair.

Trident Investigative Service Inc.

www.TridentSeattle.com.

Renee may be emailed at:

Renee@TridentSeattle.com

(253) 852-7000



TRIDENT