



P.O. Box 906  
Bellevue, WA 98009

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## **SAFETY TIPS FOR CLOSED BUSINESSES**

Considering the recent events in the United States as well as globally, Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound has compiled some common-sense tips for small business owners who have been forced to close during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The police are already seeing a rise in burglaries and vandalism of commercial establishments, and Crime Stoppers is doing our part to help businesses better protect themselves in these trying times.

Here are some preparations you can make now in the event of later widespread issues:

- ❑ Lock up your business thoroughly, and have someone check the building daily.
- ❑ Move all product away from windows and store in a safe location—or remove from the building all together.
- ❑ Empty the cash register and consider emptying the safe/lock box and moving it to separate location.
- ❑ Consider boarding up vulnerable entry points that would make easy access for a burglar. This also helps reduce vandalism.
- ❑ Utilize security cameras and alarms.
- ❑ Keep the area well lit, and consider motion sensor lights for added visibility.
- ❑ Unplug all necessary items, including electronics and space heaters.
- ❑ Stop or redirect mail, and cancel daily/weekly publications, such as newspapers. It would not be good to have items pile up at the business.
- ❑ Notify your local Police Department that you will be closed, and update any posted Emergency Contact Information.

We are all hoping that this pandemic will end soon, and we can return to our work sites to provide for our families. Remember, Police, Fire, and EMS will be working at full capacity; however, these agencies could take more time than usual to assist you should the need arise. In troubling times, these men and women will be doing all they can to serve and protect our communities.