



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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County increases security at solid waste drop-box sites

Snohomish County Public Works has increased security at its solid waste drop-box sites to prevent future theft of auto batteries and other materials.

Snohomish County Sheriff's deputies responded to silent alarms during break-ins at two county drop-box sites in Snohomish and Sultan last week. Suspects were taken into custody.

Residents bring auto batteries, among other materials, to county facilities for proper disposal. The county collects the batteries for free then takes them to recyclers.

Thieves entered the sites and broke into storage containers searching for auto batteries, which have a resale value of approximately \$5 when taken to private recycling facilities.

All Snohomish County Solid Waste Division facilities are equipped with alarm systems, as well as surveillance cameras, which recorded the suspects. Additional efforts are underway to secure the battery storage areas at each location.

Sheriff's deputies make frequent patrols of the sites and are often present after hours. In addition, entering a drop-box site after hours or unattended can be dangerous. Old batteries contain acid and in the dark, people could fall into an open pit.

Any suspicious after-hours activities observed at any Solid Waste Division facility should be reported to the Sheriff's office by calling 911.

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