Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
Presents
Operation Safe Storage

Sgt. Jim Wilson
Det. Dan Cunius
Det. Eric Rost
Mecklenburg County
Mecklenburg County

- County Seat: Charlotte
- Households: 357,016 (2005)
- Land Area: 526 Square Miles
Local Economy

- **Diverse Economy**
  - Banking
  - Healthcare
  - Transportation

- Headquarters of 8 Fortune 500
- 328 of Fortune 500
Growth Since 2000

- Population +19%
- Households +35%
- 45,401 new jobs
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

- Departments merged in 1993
- Protect 438 square miles
- 1640 sworn officers
- 13 patrol divisions
Property Crimes

- Decrease in violent crimes
- Increase in property crimes
- Reduce burglaries
Birth of a Project

- Reviewed burglary reports
- Mini storage units
  - 1 report = # of storage unit B&E
  - Increase in commercial B&E
  - Initial scan 99 reports = 330 storage units B&E
  - Represented 7% of commercial B&E

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Team Formed

- July 2005

Sgt and 3 detectives
What Do We Know?

- Who is doing it?
- What are they taking?
- Where is it happening?
- How are they doing it?
- More questions than answers
Similar Projects

- One department project
- One Pop Center project
- Each addressed single location
- No global project
Cleaned up Data

- Reviewed police reports
- Revised: 71 reports = 291 storage units B&E
- 28 different locations
- Including 65 & 34 storage units B&E
- 4.1 storage units B&E per report
- 28 reports B&E office or misclassified

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Continuing Analysis

- July - December 2005
- 39 reports = 247 storage units B&E
- 21 locations
- Incidents of 36, 26, 26 & 20 units B&E
- 6.3 units B&E per reports
 Pieces Coming Together

- No risk of apprehension
- Solvability: little to none
- Padlocks cut
- Items stolen:
  - Electronics
  - Tools
  - Lawn equipment

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Coming in to Focus

- Accurate # of incidents
- Some locations had problems
- Others.....no incidents
- Visit all mini storage locations
Mini Storage Locations

- Searched Yellow Pages/Internet
- 75 locations
- 58 in Charlotte city limits
- 17 in unincorporated county
Site Surveys

- CPTED-Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Business practices
- Security cameras
- Limited access
- Locks
- Areas surrounding locations

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Secondary Info

- Learned the business
- Gathered other crime prevention ideas
- Started building partnerships

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Reasons for Renting

● Short term:
  ● Moving in or out of area
  ● Moving to a new house
  ● Divorce

● Long term:
  ● Businesses
  ● Extra storage
  ● Miscellaneous uses
Reasons Criminals Rent

- Meth lab
- Store stolen property
- Access property to B&E storage units
- Prostitution
Locations

- Plotted all storage locations
- Burglary hotspots
- Some correlation
Crime Triangle

B&E
Storage
Unit

Renter
Unknown

Target Hardening

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Response Realizations

- Police presence not practical
- Apprehension not practical
- Alter opportunity
- Look to reduce incidents/harm
Understanding

- Problem is 2-fold
- Business: perimeter security
- Renter: storage unit security
- Response 2-fold
Physical security/CPTED

Enhance employee inspections

Limit access hours

Criminal background checks on renters

Recommend disc locks

Solicit renters to be guardians

Educate renters

Access codes for police
Renters

- Disc locks
- Brochure
- Tips to better secure property
- Record serial numbers
- Engraver

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Controlled Response

- Showed results to Chief
- CMPD provide disc locks
- Three locations:
  - Mini Storage Center 1515 E Sugar Creek Rd
  - Mini Storage Center 4500 Monroe Rd
  - Depot Self Storage 9400 Bob Beatty Rd
- Study period July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Measured Effectiveness

- Test sites and control sites
- Number of incidents
- Total net result (# of units B&E)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>FY 2005</th>
<th>FY 2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini Storage Center</td>
<td>10 Reports</td>
<td>1 Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>1515 E Sugar Creek Rd</td>
<td>57 Units</td>
<td>4 Units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini Storage Center</td>
<td>3 Reports</td>
<td>4 Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>4500 Monroe Rd</td>
<td>73 Units</td>
<td>33 Units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depot Self Storage</td>
<td>No Incidents</td>
<td>No Incidents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9400 Bob Beatty Rd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Number of B&E Reports

- FY 2005: 66 reports
- Test = 20%
- FY 2006: 74 reports
- Test = 7%
- Test -62% reduction
- Control +30% increase

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Number of Units B&E

- FY 2005: 417 units B&E
- Test = 31%
- FY 2006: 411 units B&E
- Test = 9%
- Test -72% reduction
- Control +30% increase

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Assessment

- Only difference?
- Disc locks
Devil’s Advocate

- We can’t make them use disc locks
-Suspects will damage our doors
-Hard for us to cut off (delinquent)

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
Counter Points

- Sell disc locks at cost
- Happy customers = Repeat customer
- Word of mouth
Lessons Learned

- Understand the problem
- Multifaceted response
- Measure the problem and the harm
- Realized reductions
- Response – bought/distributed locks

Scan Analysis Response Assessment
“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Benjamin Franklin
What Next?

- Target larger business
- Best practice guide
- Certification process
- NC Self Storage Association (NCSSA)
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