



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:
KCSO news release #09-014 / 125

Monday, March 16, 2009

“Offender Watch” Program Launched

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A new Internet-based software program, designed to enhance the monitoring capacity of registered sex offenders in Kitsap County, and throughout Washington State, has been launched by the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office.

Called “Offender Watch,” this program will help law enforcement track all registered sex offenders and kidnapping offenders to ensure that registration requirements are met and that community notifications are issued. This program also will increase the public's access to information regarding registered sex offenders who may reside in their communities.

Offender Watch provides a user-friendly sex offender website that allows people to search a county-wide and state-wide database of level II and level III registered sex offenders. The program will also include level I registered sex offenders who are currently transient.

Users may enter any address of interest and receive a populated map and listing of offenders within two miles of that address. They also can register that address to receive an e-mail alert if a new offender should register at a residence within two miles of that address.

Community members may register as many addresses as they like at no cost. All information is confidential. Offender Watch may be accessed 24 hours a day, every day, at the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office website: www.kitsapgov.com/sheriff/.

Developed by Watch Systems LLC in Louisiana, the Offender Watch software is being used by more than 400 agencies in 31 states.

One of the best ways to prevent crime is through public awareness, education and by providing readily available information. This program will assist the sheriff's office in tracking offenders, providing current and accurate information to the public and enhancing efforts to keep our communities safe.

###