

Security Risks to the Pacific North West Pagan Community in 2015

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October 2105

THREAT SUMMARY:

1. There is no unique security or criminal threats to the Washington pagan community that have been identified by Law Enforcement or the security community. There is no evidence that the pagan community is being specifically targeted by any groups or ideologies. There is no evidence that Pagans are at increased risk exclusively because they are pagan.
2. Some Washington Pagans, however, may be at increased risk of criminal victimization because of other issues such as sexual orientation/identification, substance abuse, lifestyle choices/situations, mental health issues, age or geographic location.
3. Gang related violence continues to be a threat for all people due to the large number & diversity of gangs in the area. There have been several violent incidents in King County the author is aware of that had the appearance of being gang initiation related.
4. Some pagans may be at increased risk of bullying if they are open about their practice or are perceived as “different” within their community. There is no data to confirm that this bullying results in violence or criminal activity against pagans although it can cause issues with the victim that may require counseling. Online Bullying within the Pagan Community also seems prevalent as well, especially on social media such as Facebook.
5. One major risk that is rarely talked about openly within the Pagan community is Sexual Predators. The open & accepting nature of the pagan community does offer opportunity for sexual predators to take advantage of new or unsuspecting pagans.
6. Pagans, like everyone else, are at high risk from online crime including bullying, fraud and identity theft.
7. Terrorism, although a low risk to individuals, continues to be a concern because the variety of terrorist groups active in the Pacific Northwest, including Islamic terrorists, rightwing/racist terrorist groups, Anarchists extremists and Eco/Animal rights terrorists groups. Some extremist groups may also see the pagan community as a potential recruiting ground.

INTRODUCTION

This whitepaper describes the threats to Pagans and the Pagan Community in the Pacific North West (PNW) and specifically Washington State. It uses a “*Risk/Threat Based Methodology*” to identify any unique threats to pagans as well as threats to the general PNW population. This knowledge can then be used by Pagans and the Pagan Community to make decisions on dealing with perceived risks in their personal, professional & religious practices.

This paper does not address the criminological causes of these threats since there is little that the Pagan Community by itself can do to remediate the underlying problem of antisocial behavior in the short term.

The primary source of information in this paper is Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement and counterterrorism documents in the public domain. This data is supplemented by peer reviewed published articles preferably authored by people with professional experience in Law Enforcement, intelligence, counterterrorism or threat assessment. Because of the risk of ideological bias, data from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) is only used when it supports the general consensus of the professional community. Finally, my own analysis is included to identify how these threats may apply to the Pagan community.

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- Over 20 years of investigative, intelligence and security experience working in the public and private sectors
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- 30 years of martial arts training & teaching including: 5th Degree Blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do and 4th Degree Blackbelt in Hapkido

CRIME

WASHINGTON STATE CRIME

Crime continues to be the biggest threat the pagan community faces in Washington State. Overall, Pagans do not face any significantly higher criminal threats than non-pagans. However, the risk for individual pagans can vary widely by age, gender, geography, sexual orientation/identity, lifestyle, substance abuse and other factors.

Assault is the most prevalent violent crime facing people in Washington with hands, feet or fists being the most likely weapon. Handguns, knives & clubs are all equally likely to be used if a weapon is involved in a violent crime. Over 60% of violent crime is done by people the victims know. 75% of sex crimes are committed by people the victims knew.

Offense By Category					
Offense	Reported in 2014	Percent of Category	Offenses Cleared	Percent Cleared	Rate per 1,000
Murder	135	0.2%	78	57.78%	0.0
Forcible Rape	1,562	2.1%	449	28.75%	0.2
Forcible Sodomy	213	0.3%	59	27.70%	0.0
Sexual Assault w/Object	59	0.1%	18	30.51%	0.0
Forcible Fondling	2,267	3.1%	604	26.64%	0.3
Aggravated Assault	9,437	12.9%	4,512	47.81%	1.4
Simple Assault	39,485	54.0%	21,918	55.51%	5.7
Intimidation	7,215	9.9%	1,890	26.20%	1.0
Kidnapping	838	1.1%	427	50.95%	0.1
Incest	50	0.1%	18	36.00%	0.0
Statutory Rape	257	0.4%	100	38.91%	0.0
Human Trafficking	6	0.0%	3	50.00%	0.0
Violation No Contact/Protect.	11639	15.9%	6,598	56.69%	1.7
Crimes Against Persons Total	73,163	19.5%	36,674	50.13%	10.5
Robbery	4,327	1.6%	1,302	30.09%	0.6
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	39,755	14.3%	3,990	10.04%	5.7
Larceny/Theft Offenses	133,876	48.1%	22,984	17.17%	19.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	21,942	7.9%	1,366	6.23%	3.1
Arson	839	0.3%	171	20.38%	0.1
Destruction of Property	49,845	17.9%	7,785	15.62%	7.2
Counterfeit/Forgery	4,144	1.5%	851	20.54%	0.6
Fraud Offenses	18,764	6.7%	1,335	7.11%	2.7
Embezzlement	319	0.1%	110	34.48%	0.0
Extortion/Blackmail	133	0.0%	25	18.80%	0.0
Bribery	4	0.0%	2	50.00%	0.0
Stolen Property Offenses	4,127	1.5%	2,881	69.81%	0.6
Crimes Against Property Total	278,075	74.3%	42,802	15.39%	39.9

TABLE 1 – Washington State Crime Statistics 2014

CRIME STATISTICS 2014

CITYWIDE OVERVIEW

The citywide and precinct Major Crime statistics through the end of the year has now been posted.

Major Crimes in Seattle By Month													
CRIMES*	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Homicide	1	2	0	4	1	5	3	1	3	3	0	3	26
Rape	8	9	9	7	15	6	16	14	5	15	13	11	128
Robbery	129	79	139	126	136	149	123	151	155	107	138	140	1572
Agg Assault	183	151	161	187	212	193	204	211	223	217	155	162	2259
TOT VIOLENT	321	241	309	324	364	353	346	377	386	342	306	316	3985
Burglary	647	499	549	559	609	601	608	597	614	623	588	608	7102
Larceny/Theft**	2303	1938	2327	2574	2518	2412	2306	2376	2298	2460	2182	2221	27915
Vehicle Theft	443	370	401	483	532	613	542	383	424	537	386	303	5417
TOT PROP	3393	2807	3277	3616	3659	3626	3456	3356	3336	3620	3156	3132	40434
TOTAL	3714	3048	3586	3940	4023	3979	3802	3733	3722	3962	3462	3448	44419

TABLE 2 – Seattle Crime Statistics 2014

In Washington State:

1. Domestic Violence offenses made up 51.0 % of all Crimes against Persons.
2. A total of 292 hate crime incidents were reported
3. 6.1% of the total incidents reported in 2014 indicated drug and/or alcohol usage during the Commission of a crime.
4. 48.8% of violent crimes were committed against female victims.
5. 22.3% of violent crimes were committed against victims under the age of 18 years.

Most (60%) Violent Crime is done by people known to the victim - Relationship of Victim to Offender:

1. Acquaintance 17.3%
2. Stranger 39.9%
3. Intimate Partner 14.1%

4. Otherwise Known **14.5%**
5. Family Relationship (excluding relationships identified above) **13.3%**
6. Victim was Offender **0.9%**

Most (75%) Rapes are done by people known to the victim: Relationship of Victim to Offender(s)

1. Family Relationship **14.1%**
2. Acquaintance **27.6%**
3. Otherwise Known **13.9%**
4. Friend **6.7%**
5. Intimate Partner **13.6%**
6. Stranger/Unknown Relationship **24.1%**

	Murder	Neq. Manslaughter	Forcible Rape	Sex Assault w/Object	Forcible Fondling	Aggravated Assault	Kidnapping/Abduction	Viol.No Contact/Protection Order	Simple Assault	Human Trafficking	Total	
Handgun	37	2	14	1	0	2	978	55	0	4	2	1,095
Automatic Handgun	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Rifle	6	1	0	0	0	0	86	8	0	0	0	101
Automatic Rifle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Automatic Firearm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shotgun	5	2	0	0	0	0	85	3	0	0	0	95
Automatic Shotgun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Firearm	3	0	0	0	1	3	111	10	0	2	0	130
Firearm (unk. type)	28	0	8	1	0	0	361	17	0	0	0	415
Explosives	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Knife	17	0	33	4	1	2	1,746	47	0	13	0	1,863
Blunt Object	9	0	3	3	3	3	1,022	7	0	6	0	1,056
Vehicle	1	4	0	0	0	0	499	3	0	1	0	508
Personal Weapon	10	1	995	140	27	1,301	2,941	397	32,149	292	0	38,253
Poison	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	18
None	0	0	311	37	14	632	308	223	4,357	2,310	2	8,194
Fire	2	1	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	25
Drug/Narcotic	1	1	17	2	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	31
Asphyxiation	3	1	7	1	0	0	323	2	0	0	0	337
Other	4	0	66	7	6	166	1,258	46	2,850	35	2	4,440
Unknown	15	1	125	22	8	159	560	51	271	23	0	1,235

TABLE 3 – Washington State Crime Statistics by Weapon Used 2014

The weapon type of “Personal Weapons” (hands, fists or feet) was reported in **36,372** incidents; firearms were reported in **4,535** incidents

GANGS

Gangs are expanding, evolving and posing an increasing threat to US communities nationwide. Many gangs are sophisticated criminal networks with members who are violent, distribute drugs, and have close working relationships with transnational criminal organizations. Gangs are becoming more violent while engaging in less typical and lower-risk crime, such as prostitution and white-collar crime.

There are approximately 1.4 million street, prison, and Motorcycle gang members comprising more than 33,000 gangs in the United States. Gang membership increased most significantly in the Northeast and Southeast regions, although the West and Great Lakes regions boast the highest number of gang members. Many communities are also experiencing an increase in ethnic-based gangs such as African, Asian, Caribbean, and Eurasian gangs.

Gangs are responsible for an average of 48 percent of violent crime in most jurisdictions and up to 90 percent in several others. Major cities and suburban areas experience the most gang-related violence. Local neighborhood-based gangs and drug crews continue to pose the most significant criminal threat in most communities.

Gangs are increasingly engaging in non-traditional gang-related crime, such as alien smuggling, human trafficking, and prostitution. Gangs are also engaging in white collar crime such as counterfeiting, identity theft, and mortgage fraud due to the high profitability and much lower risk of detection and punishment than drug and weapons trafficking.

Gangs pose a growing problem along the US-Canada border. Gangs smuggle drugs, cigarettes, firearms, and immigrants across the US-Canada borders. According to law enforcement, members of several gangs in the Pacific North West, including the Hells Angels and Asian gangs, engage in cross-border criminal activity in this area. For example. Hells Angels & Asian gangs have reportedly smuggled Ecstasy from British Columbia, Canada into Bellingham, Washington. **Many suburban and rural communities in Washington are**

experiencing increasing gang-related crime and violence because of expanding gang influence. King County continues to have the largest number of gangs in Washington State.

Washington State will likely continue to experience an increase in gang related violence. Gang membership will continue to rise as the gang culture is viewed as a positive lifestyle alternative.



FIGURE 1: Number of Gangs in Washington State by County

Northwest Gangs differ from East Coast, Chicago, and Los Angeles gangs in that they are highly mobile, are profit-oriented and do not always have strong neighborhood ties. Gangs typically develop alliances with other gangs and criminal organizations to facilitate the distribution and trafficking of drugs, principally marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

Gangs statewide perpetrate violence ranging from assaults to murders, burglaries to home invasion robberies, drive-by shootings, sexual assault, torture, intimidation,

kidnapping, weapons trafficking, and prostitution. As of 2010 there are approximately 300 active street gangs in Washington State with approximately 15,000 active gang members. Street Gangs totaling more than 250 members are not uncommon in King County and some have close to 1,000 members.

King County has approximately 40 percent (120) of the street gangs in Washington State. Pierce County has the second largest number with 16 percent (50) of the active street gangs followed by Yakima County with 13 percent (40) and Thurston County with 7 percent (21). Some of the most prevalent gangs in the state are Lil Valley Lokos (LVL), Florencia, 18th Street, and the Hoover Crips. Most, if not all, gangs use social networking websites to post their activities and to recruit new members as well as using technologies such as the internet, cameras, and police scanners. Gang members also use Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and other networking sites to communicate with each other worldwide, to enlist new members, and to intimidate or threaten their rivals.

Gang members make up 18 percent of the state's prison population of 18,000 but account for 43 percent of major violent incidents once inside the prison system. The gangs with the most members in the state prison system are the Crips with 2,385 members, the Surenos with 1,773 members, and the white supremacists with 1,389 members.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG)

Outlaw Motorcycle (OMG) and Street Gangs have been active for several years in Washington State. Both Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG) and Street Gangs have now become entrenched in the region. There are more than 17 Motor Cycle gangs active in Washington State. The dominant gangs are Bandidos, Hombres, Amigos, Destralos, Canyon Riders, Unforgiven, Warriors, Brother Speed, Free Souls, Ghost Riders, Gypsy Jokers, Hells Angels, Nomads, Resurrection, Iron Horseman, Mongols, and Outsiders. OMGs are prevalent in Whatcom, Skagit, King, and Snohomish Counties.

Native American Gangs

Gang-related crime and violence are also concentrated around major Indian reservations including the Colville, Puyallup, Spokane, and Yakama Reservations. Eastern Washington and nearby Indian reservations have experienced significant increases in violent crimes, marijuana grows, Oxycontin and methamphetamine abuse.

Some major Native American gangs are 40 Block, Gangster Disciples, Crips, Indian Pride Organization, Native Gangster Bloods (NGB), Native Gangster Crips (NGC), Native Family, Native Pride, and Northwest Native Bloods. A significant difference between Native American gangs and other street gangs is that Native American gang member's allegiance is fluid and will change affiliation depending on who they see as strongest within the tribe or area.

For example, the Puyallup Tribe has five identified Native gangs: Native Gangster Bloods (NGB), Native Gangster Crips (NGC), Blocc Crips, Native Family, and Green Ragers. Currently there are 28 active street gangs located on the reservation with 132 gang members traveling throughout different areas of the reservation from within Pierce County.

African American/Black Gangs

Black street gangs in Washington State can be loosely associated with four main organizations: Folk Nation, People Nation, Crips, and Bloods. Black gangs can be found in almost every county of Washington with most located in Pierce and King Counties.

Since 2007, King County in Washington State has seen an increase in gang activity between the South End and Central District gangs. Between 2008 and 2009 alone, there have been more than 17 homicides and numerous shootings attributed to these two gangs.

Asian/Pacific Islander Gangs

Pacific Islander gangs have been present in Seattle since the 1970s. One of the first known Pacific Islander gangs is the United Blood Nation (UBN) who is predominately Samoan and based out of Burien, Washington. Filipino gangs have been active in Washington State since the early 1970s. Presently active in Washington State are Bahalana Gang (BNG), Pinoy Real (PxR), Flipside (F*S), 23rd Diablos, and Zimangots.

Of all the gangs, Asian gangs are the most difficult to track and identify as they are nontraditional, profit oriented, non-turf oriented, and rarely act like traditional gang members. Asian gangs traditionally have been affiliated with either Blood or Crips and their acts of violence are committed primarily to achieve group goals.

Somali Gangs

Somali gang presence has increased in several cities throughout the United States including Seattle. Somalian gangs are involved in drug and weapons trafficking, human trafficking, credit card fraud, prostitution, and violent crime. Homicides involving Somali victims are often the result of clan feuds between gang members. Sex trafficking of females across jurisdictional and state borders for the purpose of prostitution is also a growing trend among Somalian gangs.

Hispanic Gangs

California style Hispanic gangs have been in Washington since the 1970s, starting with Nuestra Familia and Nortenos in Yakima. They have continued to increase their presence throughout the state. Much like California, Washington State is split between Nuestra Familia (NF) and Norte and La EME and Sur. La EME and Sur are prevalent in Western Washington, while NF and Norte are widespread in Eastern Washington.

MASS SHOOTING INCIDENTS

In the last 15 years, mass shootings occurred in small and large towns, in urban and rural areas, and in 40 of 50 states. Though incidents occurred primarily in business and educational environments (70.0%), they also occurred on city streets, on military and other government properties, and in private residences, health care facilities, and houses of worship. The shooters victimized young and old, male and female, family members, and people of all races, cultures, and religions.

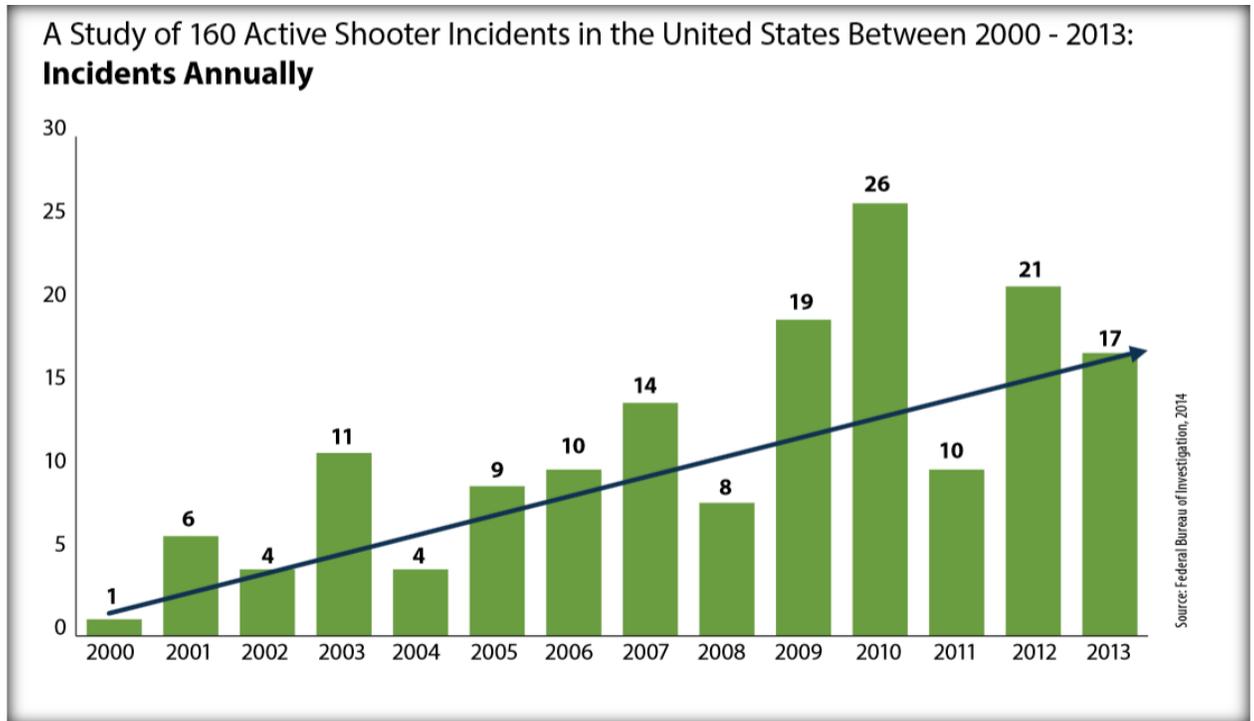


FIGURE 2: Number of mass shootings by year

The following trends can be found with mass shooting

1. An average of 16.4 mass shootings occurred in the last 7 years. This is a 250% increase over the previous 7 years.
2. Most mass shootings involved males between the ages of 17 and 48. Most of the active shooters were single attackers
3. 70.0% of the incidents occurred in either a commerce/business or educational environment.
 - a. The largest number of mass shootings occurred at the workplace (37%) and were conducted by either a former employee or relative of an employee.
 - b. The most common identified motivations were found to be workplace retaliation (21%), domestic disputes (14%), and academic retaliation by a current or former student (7%).
4. The average active-shooter incident lasts 12 minutes. Thirty-seven percent last less than 5 minutes.

- a. 60.0% of the incidents ended before police arrived
5. Many active shooters display observable pre-attack behaviors, which, if recognized, can lead to the disruption of the planned attack. Human bystanders generally represent the greatest opportunity for the detection and recognition of an active shooter prior to his or her attack. **Awareness of high risk behaviors can save lives.**
6. Many active shooters were described as social isolates, harbored feelings of hate and anger, and/or had some reported contact with mental health professionals.
 - a. Nationwide, the numbers of mass shootings involving perpetrators with behavioral health issues have increased. **One study of mass shooting concludes that 79% of perpetrators demonstrated signs of mental illness.**
 - b. Very few active shooters had previous arrests for violent crimes.
 - c. Common catalysts or triggers observed include: loss of significant relationships, changes in financial status, loss of a job, changes in living arrangements, major adverse changes to life circumstances, and/or feelings of humiliation or rejection on the part of the shooter.
7. In most of the incidents, the active shooters took their own lives or law enforcement was forced to shoot and kill them.
8. Semiautomatic handguns are the weapon of choice for mass shootings.

SEXUAL PREDATORS WITHIN THE PAGAN COMMUNITY

The issue of sexual predators in within the pagan community is often not openly discussed but continues to be a risk. Keeping the pagan community safe requires a realistic understanding the [threat](#) of sexual predators. Here is a good article on the topic that pagans should read this [article](#).

Sex Offender characteristics:

1. **While most sex offenders are male**, sometimes sex offenses are committed by female offenders.
2. Power, control, and anger are more likely to be the primary motivators for sexual assault.

3. Studies suggest that most rape offenders are married or in consenting relationships.
4. While drugs and alcohol are often involved in sexual assaults, drugs and alcohol do not cause sexual offenses to occur.

Child sexual abuse:

1. **Most child sexual predators abuse children whom they know** and with whom they have a relationship. Ninety percent of child victims know their offender, with almost half of the offenders being a family member.
2. **In the majority of cases, abusers gain access to their victims through deception and enticement, seldom using force.** Abuse typically occurs within a long-term, ongoing relationship between the offender and victim.
3. Children often do not tell for a variety of reasons including the offender's threats to hurt or kill someone the victim loves, as well as shame, embarrassment, wanting to protect the offender, feelings for the offender, fear of being held responsible or being punished, fear of being disbelieved, and fear of losing the offender who may be very important to the child or the child's family.
4. Pressure to be liked and not be talked about negatively by a peer will sometimes cause adolescents or children to avoid fighting back or actively resisting.
5. Adult and child victims of sexual abuse are never to blame for the assault, regardless of their behavior.

Rape:

1. **Many sexual assaults of adult women are considered "confidence rapes," in that the offender knows the victim.**
2. It is common for victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone. When the person was assaulted as a child, he or she may wait years or decades. The reasons for this are numerous: victims may want to deny the fact that someone they trusted could do this to them; they may want to just put it behind them; they may believe the myth that they caused the assault by their behavior; or they may fear how other people will react to the truth.

3. More than any physical injuries the victim sustains, the violation of trust that accompanies most sexual assaults has been shown to dramatically increase the level of trauma the victim suffers. Emotional and psychological injuries cause harm that can last much longer than physical wounds.
4. Sexual assault victims may not say "no" or not fight back for a variety of reasons including fear and confusion. Rape victims often report being "frozen" by fear during the assault, making them unable to fight back; other victims may not actively resist for fear of angering the assailant and causing him to use more force in the assault.
5. The victim's recovery will be enhanced if she or he feels believed, supported, protected, and receives counseling following the disclosure that s/he was assaulted.

It's important for people in the pagan community to [recognize signs of sexual abuse](#) and when possible, respond to it. Pagan organizations should feel empowered to respond to suspicion and to concerns of sexual abuse, through reporting, banning, and/or watching persons of concern. Communities should establish clear guidelines for removing persons of concern when there have been credible, specific allegations of misconduct made. Likewise, given the high rates of recidivism among predators, groups may want to think twice about allowing anyone access to gatherings where children will be present; to people who have a past conviction of any form of sexual exploitation, or who has been the subject of repeated, specific allegations from within the community. Pagan leaders can also identify convicted sexual predators in Washington at this [website](#) and Nationwide [here](#).

TERRORISM

Overview of Terrorism

The U.S Code of Federal Regulations defines terrorism as “...the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.” The violence can be perpetrated using a wide variety of means, e.g., bombs, chemicals, firearms, computer attacks, biological agents, and vehicles.

The targets of terrorism depends on the terrorist’s ideology, strategy, resources and the target protection. Many groups aim to kill as many people as possible, but ecoterrorists have focused more on property destruction. Most groups also aim to destroy sites related to their ideology.

Terrorism in Seattle

Seattle has not experienced a large-scale 9/11 or Oklahoma Bombing-type of terrorist act, but it has had several smaller incidents and has been connected to larger incidents. The terrorist threat in Seattle comes from multiple sources. **Al Qaeda and related Islamic jihadists, the extreme right and radical environmentalism have been the most frequent ideologies of terrorism.** The Seattle area has seen at least one terrorist attack against a group of people specifically because of their religion (The 2006 attack at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle).

Terrorism comes in cycles. In the 1960s and 70s, left wing radical groups were most active. In the 1990s, it was the extreme right wing and in the 2000s, it is al Qaeda and allied groups. Ecoterrorism has also been a periodic presence in the Pacific Northwest. Besides committing acts of terrorism in the United States, many foreign terrorist groups use this country for fundraising and recruiting.

Terrorist incidents in Washington State:

- 1984. Seattle / Whidbey Island. Members of The Order, a racist Aryan Nations offshoot, robbed an armored car at Northgate mall. They fled to Whidbey Island and were subsequently killed in a confrontation with police.
- 1993. Tacoma. Two bombs exploded in Tacoma in July, causing some property damage. A group calling itself the American Front Skinheads was responsible. They are also suspected of bombing a gay bar on Capitol Hill.
- 1996. Spokane. Members of the white separatist group Phineas Priesthood committed two bank robberies in Spokane. Both were preceded by bombings. The first occurred on April 1, 1996 and targeted the Spokesman Review newspaper; the second occurred on July 12, 1996, targeting an abortion clinic. There were no injuries, but property damage was extensive.
- 1996. Bellingham. Eight individuals were arrested near Bellingham. They had plotted attacks against a bridge, railroad tunnel and a radio tower.
- 1996. Seattle. Jason Sprinkle started a bomb scare when he parked his truck in the middle of Westlake Park, slashed the tires and walked away. His truck had a huge metal heart in its bed and the word "bomb" printed on its bumper. He intended the action as a protest to the reopening of Pine Street to traffic, but instead he caused a massive bomb scare. Nine blocks were evacuated during a busy weekday afternoon while the police investigated.
- 1999. Port Angeles / Seattle. An Algerian man with links to Osama bin Laden was caught smuggling bomb making materials into the U.S. at Port Angeles. He had hotel reservations in Seattle close to the Seattle Center. The New Year's celebration at the Center was cancelled as a precaution; it was later determined that the actual terrorist target was Los Angeles.
- 1999. Seattle. Suspected eco-terrorist attacks at University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture.
- 2001. The Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility for an arson attack against a University of Washington building. The fire caused \$6,000,000 in damage.

- 2001. Nation-wide. September 11th attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon. Fourth terrorist-hijacked airliner crashes in Pennsylvania.
- 2002. Seattle. James Ujama pleads guilty to providing assistance to the Taliban government of Afghanistan.
- 2002. Seattle. Individuals opposed to a Seattle company's involvement with animal research entities released smoke bombs in major downtown buildings, causing substantial economic disruption and evacuations.
- 2003. Monroe. The Animal Liberations Front released 10,000 mink in Monroe, Washington, causing a loss of animal life and over \$40,000 in damages.
- 2003. Pullman. Two incendiary devices were left at the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
- 2006. Seattle. Naveed Afzal Haq shot six people, one fatally, at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Haq was not connected with terrorist groups, but his motives were related to Islamic terrorism and hostility to Jews.
- 2011. Seattle. Two men were arrested for a plot to attack a Seattle armed forces recruiting center.
- Until early 2001, the Aryan Nations maintained a compound in Northern Idaho not far from Washington and stated that it would like to create a white homeland in the Pacific Northwest.

The pattern in the Seattle area has been a series of smaller scale attacks punctuated by the large arson attack against the University of Washington. It seems very likely that Seattle will continue to experience smaller scale attacks targeting property primarily by radical environmental/animal rights extremist groups. **At the same time, the international threat from jihadist extremists has been growing nationally.** Seattle has seen some of this Islamic extremism activity. There have not been as many recent incidents linked with right-wing extremists, but these groups are still in existence in the PNW.

Many terrorist attacks occur in downtown areas. The high population in these areas as well as their high economic, political and cultural significance make them prime targets. Many

of our transportation hubs connect through downtown and would be impacted by a large attack as well. **Seattle is highly vulnerability to an attack against its downtown and transportation infrastructure.**

It is probable that future attacks will be small-scale actions carried out by individuals or small independent groups. Most previous attacks, especially those carried out by radical environmentalists and animal rights groups, have targeted property, but the Jewish Federation Shooting suggests that future actions may target people.

Terrorist attacks in Seattle could come from either a domestic or international group. Given the number of potential weapons, it is impossible to predict what form such an attack is most likely. In the past, weapons have included bombs, aircraft as missiles, chemicals and firearms with bombs being the most common. The worst case scenario is the potential for using weapons of mass destruction: nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons.

Islamic Terrorism

Over the past year, the Islamic terrorist groups such as ISIL/ISIS has threatened violence against the United States. Propaganda providing guidance and/or encouraging “individual jihad” or small cell operations against the West continues to be a prevalent theme in jihadist messaging. Recently, ISIL supporters launched a Twitter campaign threatening violence against the United States. ISIL has called on lone offenders in the US to use the “yellow pages,” social media sites like Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter to find the addresses of service members, “show up [at their homes] and slaughter them.” According to the US Government, as many as 300 Americans are fighting with ISIL. There is concern that these Americans could return to the US and commit attacks using the skills they learned overseas.

As a consequence of extremist Islamic propaganda, a broader and more diverse pool of individuals in the United States, including females, may identify strongly with aspects of its ideology which including governance under Islamic law, the re-establishment of the caliphate, the purported obligation upon Muslims to emigrate once it is formed, and the defense of Sunni

Muslims against perceived persecution. Jihadists will likely continue using social media platforms to call for participation in violent action in the West.

Islamic terrorism & extremism continues to be the highest risk for both Pagans & people living in the Pacific North West. Several Mosques in the Seattle area have been identified with Islamic extremists. One Mosque, until several years ago, advocated violence against witches, gays & adulterers on their website. Some Immigrants may also come from regions where violence against “witches” or people who practice “black magic” is tolerated or even condoned although no incidents have been identified in this region (there have been some cases in other countries however).

RIGHTWING TERRORISM

White Supremacist Extremists

The term “white supremacist extremism” (WSE) describes people or groups who commit criminal acts in the name of white supremacist ideology. At its core, white supremacist ideology purports that the white race ranks above all others. WSE draws on the constitutionally protected activities of a broad swath of racist hate-oriented groups active in the United States ranging from the Ku Klux Klan to racist skinheads. Some of these groups have elaborate organizational structures, dues-paying memberships, and media wings. Additionally, many individuals espouse extremist beliefs without having formal membership in any specific organization. A large proportion of white supremacists see the world divided between whites and all other peoples who are seen as enemies.

One estimate suggested that 53 acts of violence were committed by “white supremacist extremists” between 2007 and 2009 in the United States. Victims included other white supremacists, Gays, African Americans, and Latinos.

In the past, there have been unsubstantiated stories of KKK type organizations (or similar groups) attacking pagan events but there have not been any confirmed incidents recently within the Pacific North West. (There is an unsubstantiated story of KKK types attacking a Society of Creative Anachronism (SCA) campout in the south and getting beaten up). Within the Pagan community however, there are some white supremacists who use racism to interpret Norse mythology and follow “Folkish” Odinism. Stormfront.com, the most popular

neo-Nazi website, has a large pagan section where its members discuss pagan mythology from a racial perspective. Facebook also has several groups that talk about Paganism & Odinism from a (Northern) European "Racial Pride" viewpoint.

Racist Skinheads

In the United States, racist skinheads have been around since the early 1980s. Since the early 2000s, the movement in the United States has been characterized by a proliferation of regional groups or crews rather than a single united organization. In law enforcement circles, racist skinheads have a reputation for violence reinforced by hate filled white power music and literature. They are often identified by their appearance (shaved heads or close-cropped hair, white power tattoos) and dress (bomber jackets, 'braces' (suspenders), steel-toed boots. In 2011, it was estimated that there were 133 skinhead groups were active in the United States.

Oregon & specifically Portland have a reputation for an active skinhead culture. According to one uncollaborated [report](#), there are between 200 and 300 skinheads in Oregon. There are about 60 self-identified Nazi Skinheads in Portland and 30 or 40 in Salem. They are operating on a single-man cell basis, unidentified with any organization. Volksfront, which is based in Portland, is probably the most prominent neo-Nazi/skinhead group in the Pacific Northwest. "We are seeing a concerted effort on their part to strategically place older Nazi leaders, people in their late 20s, up and down the I-5 corridor."

Militia Extremists

The militia movement emerged in the 1990s as a collection of armed, paramilitary groups formed to stave off what they perceived as threats from the US Government. Their primary fear is firearm confiscation by the federal government. These groups often run training compounds where they rehearse paramilitary tactics, practice their survival skills, and receive weapons instruction and lessons in movement ideology. Some militia groups also maintain websites for recruitment and fundraising. Extremists tend to stockpile illegal weapons and ammunition, trying illegally to get their hands on fully automatic firearms or attempting to convert weapons to fully automatic. They also try to buy or manufacture improvised explosive

devices. Some members of the militia movement believe in a “New World Order” controlling U.S. institutions such as the media and the federal government. Militia extremists are expanding their target sets to include Muslims and Islamic religious institutions in the United States. Some groups may have a [Christian ideology](#) but religious affiliation can vary greatly. Timothy McVeigh claimed to be an agnostic.

Sovereign Citizen Movement

The FBI defines the sovereign citizen movement as “anti-government extremists who believe that they are separate or ‘sovereign’ from the United States”. As a result, they do not accept any government authority, including courts, taxing entities, motor vehicle departments, or law enforcement.” Current estimates suggest a membership of 300,000.

For the most part, the sovereign citizen movement is diffuse and includes few organized groups. The FBI suggests that followers operate as individuals without established leadership and only come together in loosely affiliated groups to train, help each other with paperwork or socialize and talk about their ideology.

Sovereign citizens have used fake currency, passports, license plates, and driver licenses. In 2009, a federal jury found three men guilty of conspiring to use and sell fraudulent diplomatic credentials and license plates that they believed allowed “their customers [to] enjoy diplomatic immunity and [to] no longer pay taxes”. Their activities includes “pyramid schemes, other investment schemes, bogus trust scams, real estate fraud, and various types of tax frauds as well as scams ranging from immigration fraud to malpractice insurance fraud.

Overall, Rightwing Hate Groups are now espousing the “leaderless resistance” model for fighting the people they view as their enemies. This doctrine advocates independent actions by individuals or small leaderless cells. The strategy seeks to prevent authorities from connecting illegal activities to the organization’s command and control structure. Individuals acting on their own perpetrate acts of “resistance” that support the espoused philosophy of the larger group.

Anti-Abortion Extremists

The vast majority of anti-abortion activists engage in constitutionally protected activity. However, anti-abortion extremists have been committed crimes in the name of the anti-

abortion movement. There have been 66 instances of “extreme violence” targeting abortion providers and clinics from 1997 through 2010. These cases involved shootings, bombings, arson incidents, and acid attacks. Since 1993, eight clinic workers have been murdered by anti-abortion extremists in the United States.

One underground network that supports attacks on abortion clinics is the Army of God (AOG). The loosely structured organization openly promotes anti-abortion violence. However, its members deny that they are terrorists and also deny that attacks against clinics and abortion providers constitute violent activity, because they see it as “Godly work.” The group disseminates a manual that is a ‘how to’ for abortion clinic violence. It details methods for blockading entrances, attacking with butyric acid, arson, bomb making, and other illegal activities.

Anarchists

According to the FBI, anarchist extremists commit crimes in the name of anarchist ideals. These ideals include belief that individual autonomy and collective equality are fundamental and necessary for a functional, civilized society. Anarchist extremists as well as anarchists engaging in constitutionally protected activity can oppose government, business, or social interests that they view as dangerous.

Anarchist activity is decentralized. They often form a temporary organizational structure rather than create formal groups or networks. Anarchist groups are autonomous militant units generally made up of between five-to-twenty individuals who share a cause worth defending and the types of actions they prefer to engage in. An affinity group often consists of a circle of friends. The friends coalesce around a specific objective and break apart when they achieve their desired ends. Individual groups can band together in “clusters” and clusters can coordinate their efforts. The ends can be legal or illegal, violent or non-violent, covert or open. Anarchists can engage in what they call “black bloc” tactics. These involve secretive planning for public—often criminal—activity in which participants, typically dressed in black, act en-masse.

The FBI has described anarchist extremists as typically being “event driven,” meaning they show up at political conventions, economic and financial summits, environmental

meetings, and the like. They usually target symbols of Western civilization that they perceive to be the root causes of all societal ills—i.e., financial corporations, government institutions, multinational companies, and law enforcement agencies. They damage and vandalize property, riot, set fires, and perpetrate small-scale bombings. Law enforcement is also concerned about anarchist extremists who may be willing to use improvised explosives devices or improvised incendiary devices. Anarchist extremists in the United States have been involved in illegal activity during mass protests surrounding events such as the 1999 World Trade Organization Conference in Seattle or the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, MN.

It's also believed that anarchist extremists may use arson by to specifically attack urban development sites they perceive as "gentrification" such as we are seeing in some parts of Seattle. They may also attack targets associated with major corporations such as Microsoft, Boeing or Amazon.

Animal Rights/Extremists

The term "animal rights extremism" covers criminal acts committed in the name of animal rights. Environmental extremism, often referred to as "Eco-terrorism", includes criminal acts committed in the name of the environment. Many of the crimes committed by both animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists are perpetrated by independent small cells or individuals who harass and intimidate their victims. These cells or lone actors engage in crimes such as vandalism, theft, the destruction of property, and arson. Most animal rights and eco-extremists do not engage in physical violence directly targeting people or animals. Regardless, crimes committed by eco-terrorists and animal rights extremists have caused millions of dollars in property damage, and some have involved the intimidation and harassment of victims. The FBI estimated that animal rights extremist and eco-terrorists together committed between 1,800 and 2,000 criminal incidents accounting for more than \$110 million in damages from 1979 to early 2009.

The two movements, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), have the greatest influence among animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists. Neither the ALF nor the ELF maintains formal rosters or leadership structures. However, each

communicates a sense of shared identity and attracts people who commit crimes in its name. Largely using websites, ALF and ELF supporters publish literature highlighting movement philosophies, tactics, and press releases of recent movement-related criminal activity. Much of this involves protected speech and occurs in the public realm. Press releases allow extremists to publicly claim responsibility for criminal activity in the name of either movement while maintaining secrecy regarding the details of their operations. ALF and the ELF share similar agendas, and in 1993 they declared solidarity.

ALF and ELF members understand that criminality and direct action are one and the same. *The Animal Liberation Primer*, a movement resource, highlights criminality in the actions of supporters: “anyone working in the ALF is a criminal. You have to begin to think like a criminal.” ALF and ELF members also generally view direct action as nonviolent and heroic. Using politically charged language, the ALF allegedly styles itself along the lines of the Underground Railroad, freedom fighters in Nazi Germany, anti-Apartheid protestors, U.S. civil rights activists, and Palestinian groups opposing Israel. The ELF views constitutionally protected protest as “state sanctioned” and eschews such activity.

The ALF’s version of direct action is framed as what it considers to be “economic sabotage” or “ethical vandalism.” The ALF supports the destruction of property and intimidation of individuals and businesses considered by the movement to be involved in the exploitation of animals. Cells and individuals linked to the ALF also engage in trespassing and theft, or what they perceive as “live liberations” or “rescuing” animals from “the horrors of exploitation” and human use by stealing them from places such as legitimate research facilities or farms.

Both animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists have histories of using incendiary devices to damage or destroy property. During the November 1999 World Trade Organization disruptions and again in 2001, suspected Earth Liberation Front eco-terrorist attacks occurred at the University of Washington’s Center for Urban Horticulture.

TERRORISM TACTICS

Many terrorists do not necessarily belong to organizations with cohesive, clear leadership. Some terrorists may take ideological cues from broader movements or groups espousing extremist ideas. These groups or movements publicly disavow violent criminal behavior and engage in constitutionally protected activities. This game of public groups or movements promoting extremist dogma or ideology (protected speech) that is then consumed and acted upon by independent underground groups or cells who commit crimes is a critical feature of domestic terrorism.

Leaderless Resistance

The idea of decentralized terrorist activity was developed in the 1980s and early 1990s when white supremacist Louis Beam circulated his theories of “leaderless resistance.” He saw leaderless resistance as a means to transform the white supremacy movement. Beam described it as a means of avoiding law enforcement infiltration of white supremacist groups, and he suggested *two levels* of leaderless movement activity. First, on an operational level, militant, underground, ideologically motivated cells or individuals (lone wolves) engage in movement-related illegal activity without any centralized direction or control from an organization that maintains traditional leadership positions and membership rosters. Second, on another level, the above-ground public face (the “political wing”) of the movement propagandizes and disseminates ideology—engaging in protected speech. In this system, underground cells or lone wolves would be responsible for their own actions, and the public face of the movement would not be held accountable.

The concept of leaderless resistance has been mirrored by other extremist movements in the United States. Both the ALF and the ELF follow a leaderless resistance model, making their activities more difficult for law enforcement to investigate. According to this model, above-ground elements in the movements provide guidelines and an ideological platform that lone wolves or independent cells can draw upon to motivate their own criminal actions. Exercising First-Amendment rights, the above-ground components of the ALF and the ELF lawfully communicate shared identities largely via websites.

Prison offers an environment in which individuals can be potentially radicalized. Prison brings together disaffected people who may be receptive to anti-social messages offering “clear, albeit intolerant, solutions to complex problems”. Several prison gangs hold white supremacist beliefs shared by domestic extremist groups such as the National Socialist Party, the National Alliance, Aryan Nations, and racist skinheads.

It is possible that racist, environmental or anarchists groups may see the pagan community as a potential recruiting ground or source of fund raising since extremist organizations often have a public political wing that manages the recruiting, fund raising and identification of potential candidates for “direct action” and illegal activities.

POTENTIAL TERRORISM TARGETS

Transportation

Terrorist have a long history of attacking transportation infrastructure. Terrorists have conducted attacks on a variety of rail and bus targets overseas, with the majority being against railroad tracks and bridges, and buses targeted from the outside. IEDs(bombs) and armed assaults are the usual methods of attack on mass transit targets.

Islamic terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda have called for attacks on mass transportation systems in the US. For example, In 2010, Farooque Ahmed planned to bomb several Metrorail stations in the Washington, D.C. Overall, IEDs and armed assaults were preferred terrorist tactics in attacks against mass transit trains and buses overseas. Car Bombs were also used in a small number of mass transit attacks.

Armed Assaults are usually terrorists’ preferred method of attacking buses. These involve tactics such as such as hostage taking, kidnapping, assassination, arson, hijacking, or sabotage. These attacks are usually perpetrated by one person or small teams seeking to damage, destroy, deny service, seize or inflict casualties.

CYBERTHREATS

There are no indications that PNW pagans are at greater threat from cyberthreats than the general population. However, The FBI [cautions](#) that all people face significant threats online and have a high likelihood of being victimized unless they are very careful. Fraud and cyberbullying/cyberstalking are two of the major online risks that pagans should be aware of.

Telemarketing Fraud: When you send money to people you do not know personally or give personal or financial information to unknown callers, you increase your chances of becoming a victim of telemarketing fraud. Here are some warning signs of telemarketing fraud—what a caller may tell you:

- "You must act 'now' or the offer won't be good."
- "You've won a 'free' gift, vacation, or prize." But you have to pay for "postage and handling" or other charges.
- "You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier." You may hear this before you have had a chance to consider the offer carefully.
- "You don't need to check out the company with anyone." The callers say you do not need to speak to anyone including your family, lawyer, accountant, local Better Business Bureau, or consumer protection agency.
- "You don't need any written information about their company or their references."
- "You can't afford to miss this 'high-profit, no-risk' offer."

Online auto fraud scams involves a consumer finding a vehicle on a legitimate website which is often below market value. The fraudster claims they must sell the vehicle quickly because they are relocating for work or being deployed by the military and are in need of money. The criminal refuses to meet in person, will not allow an inspection of the vehicle, and often attempts to rush the sale. To make the deal appear legitimate, the criminal instructs the victim to wire full or partial payment to a third-party agent and to fax the payment receipt to the seller as proof of payment. **The fraudster keeps the money but does not deliver the vehicle.**

Government Impersonation E-mail scams use the names of various government agencies (IRS, FBI, CIA) and high-ranking government officials to attempt to defraud consumers.

It's been estimated the average loss was approximately \$1,450 per victims. In addition, Scammers often pose as government or law enforcement officials to give them an appearance of authority, making it easier to convince unsuspecting victims to give their personal information. **It is important to note government agencies do not send unsolicited e-mails.**

Intimidation/Extortion scams use demands for money or property including threats of physical harm, criminal prosecution, or public exposure. The payday loan scheme involves receiving a call or e-mail notifying a loan is delinquent and must be paid in full to avoid legal consequences. The fraudster purports to be a representative of a legitimate agency and claims to be collecting debts for a specific company. The scammer usually has accurate victim information, including social security number, dates of birth, address, employer information, bank account numbers, and names and telephone numbers of relatives and friends. The scammer relentlessly calls or e-mails the victim's home, cell phone, and place of employment. The scammer refuses to provide any details of the alleged payday loans and becomes abusive when questioned. **Victims are threatened with legal actions, arrests, and in some cases physical violence if they refuse to pay.**

Confidence Fraud/Romance Scams are where the subject assumes the identities of military personnel or similar people. These schemes involve scammers pretending to seek friendship or romance online. Criminals search dating websites, chat rooms, and social media websites for personally identifiable information, and use well-rehearsed scripts to attract potential victims. The criminals present convincing scenarios involving family tragedies, severe life circumstances, and other hardships in an attempt to solicit money.

Social Media are also a Popular Platform for Criminals. Over the last decade, the growth and popularity of social media has increased. Social media has revolutionized the way people interact with others and has become an integral part of life for people of all ages. Criminals have exploited social media by phishing for victim to their scams. **Criminal Complaints involving social media and are estimated to be as much as 12% of reported cybercrime activity.** In most cases, victim's personal information was exploited through compromised accounts or social engineering (persuading people to give sensitive information).

Cyberbullying is a significant problem online to both pagans and non-pagans. Cyberbullying has been defined by the National Crime Prevention Council as “When the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person”. Cyber-bullying could be posting rumors or gossips about a person in the internet or it may go to the extent of personally identifying victims and publishing materials severely defaming and humiliating them. Examples of what constitutes cyberbullying include communications that seek to intimidate, control, manipulate, put down, falsely discredit, or humiliate the person. The actions are usually deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior intended to harm someone. The practice of cyberbullying is not limited to children. The actions when done by adults is often referred to as cyberstalking or cyberharassment. These tactics used by cyberstalkers are often done in public forums, social media or website sites and are intended to threaten a victim's earnings, employment, reputation, or safety. Behaviors may include encouraging others to harass the victim and trying to affect a victim's online participation. Many cyberstalkers try to damage the reputation of their victim and turn other people against them. The author has witnessed cyber-harassment in pagan social media sites such as on Facebook.

According to one [source](#), Sexual predators also use pagan online communities to attract young people interested in paganism, Wicca or witchcraft. This would not be inconsistent with the general [tactics](#) of online predators.

STAYING SAFE IN AN UNSAFE WORLD:

Physical/Home Security Precautions

These measures can help prevent home burglaries as well as prevent an individual from conducting an attack while you or your family members are home.

1. Always lock doors, windows and garages
2. Make sure home entrances are well-lighted, and minimize bushes where intruders can hide before their ambush
3. Use the peephole before opening the door to anyone
4. Don't use the chain latch to open the door part-way
5. Don't open the door to solicitors or strangers
6. Install solid-core doors, heavy-duty locks and window security systems
7. Establish a safe haven for the family to retreat to in case of an attack
8. Hold a family meeting to work out home security plans

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Attack Planning:

Historically, terrorists engage in detailed planning of their attacks. Possible indicators of attack planning by terrorists include:

1. Unusual interest in sensitive information about security measures, personnel, entry points, peak times of operation, and access controls such as alarms or locks
2. Engaging in suspicious actions designed to provoke and observe responses by law enforcement or security personnel. This can include multiple false alarms or fake emergency calls.
3. Discreet use of cameras or video recorders, sketching, or note-taking consistent with surveillance
4. Repeated visits by the same person, including attempts to disguise appearance from visit to visit
5. Attempted or unauthorized access to rooftops or other sensitive areas

6. Asking unusual questions about security measures, such as staffing, barriers, restricted areas, cameras, and intrusion detection systems
7. Unusual interest in speaking with building maintenance personnel

INDICATORS OF VIOLENCE

The following are indicators of potential violence: ¹⁶

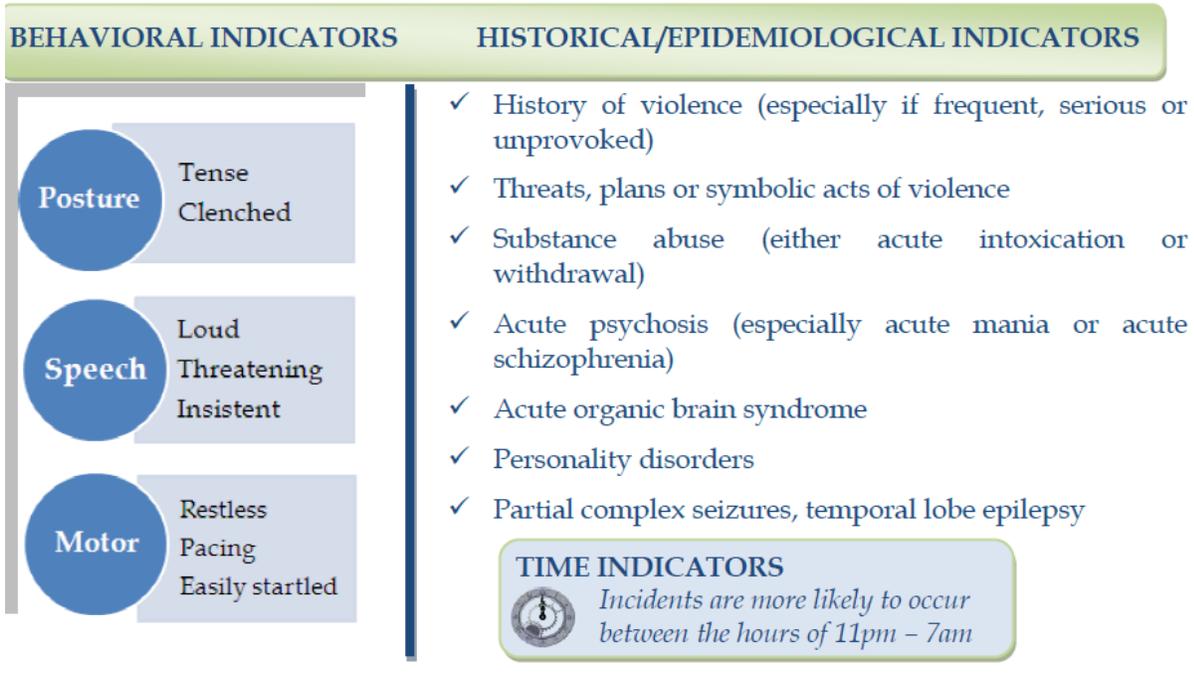


Figure 3 – Potential indicators of violence

“Top Five” Locations for Forcible Sex crimes

1. Residence
2. Highway/Road
3. Other-Unknown
4. School/College
5. Field/Woods

Possible Behaviors Associated with Individuals being radicalized or who are sympathetic to extremist organizations

- New or increased advocacy of violence including recruiting others to commit criminal acts
- Showing violent extremist propaganda produced by recognized extremist groups to people to encourage them to engage in violence
- Condoning and sharing of media glorifying violent extremist acts
- Reports that a community member has initiated unexplained isolation, including broken contact with friends and family, unexplained self-initiated exit from school or work, combined with advocacy of violence; Adoption of new lifestyles, changes in appearance, and segregation from normal peer and family groups in association with advocating criminal or terrorist activity
- Associating or communicating with known or suspected violent extremists in person or using email or social media platforms

Warning signs of violence that an employee may exhibit in the workplace:

- Increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs
- Unexplained increase in absenteeism; vague physical complaints
- Noticeable decrease in attention to appearance and hygiene
- Depression/withdrawal
- Resistance and overreaction to changes in policy and procedures
- Repeated violations of company policies
- Increased severe mood swings
- Noticeably unstable, emotional responses
- Explosive outbursts of anger or rage without provocation
- Suicidal; comments about “putting things in order”
- Paranoid behavior or utterances (“Everybody is against me”)
- Increasingly talks of problems at home

- Escalation of domestic problems into the workplace; talk of severe financial problems
- Talk of previous incidents of violence
- Empathy with individuals committing violence
- Increase in unsolicited comments about firearms, other dangerous weapons and violent crimes

Online Crime Prevention Tips

General online safety Recommendations

- Avoid “business opportunities” that claim to engage in illegal activity or offering “free” money
- Be cautious when dealing with individuals located outside the country
- Research individuals to ensure they are legitimate before doing any type of business with them
- Contact the Better Business Bureau to determine the legitimacy and reputation of a company
- Be cautious of businesses which operate from Post Office Boxes or mail drops
- Be cautious of an individual or company, who only accepts wire transfers, pre-paid cards, or cash
- Ensure a website is secure and reputable before entering any personal information

Social Media Precautions

Think before you post. Always assume everyone in the world will be able to see what you are posting, or tweeting, even if the site limits your posts to your friends and family.

1. Limit who can view your social media sites; but do not trust these settings completely
2. Avoid posting your home or work address and phone numbers; and any government or military affiliation
3. Avoid providing detailed accounts of your day (e.g., when you leave for or return from work)
4. Never allow applications to geolocate your location

Phishing/Spoofing/Spam

- Be suspicious of any unsolicited e-mail, phone call, or mail requesting your personal information, including social security number, credit card numbers, and banking information
- Avoid filling out forms in e-mail messages asking for personal information
- Log on to the official website, instead of “linking” to it from an unsolicited e-mail
- Contact the business which supposedly sent an e-mail to verify if the e-mail is genuine
- Don’t open spam. Delete it unread
- Never respond to spam as this will confirm to the sender it is a “live” e-mail address
- Have a primary and secondary e-mail address – one for people you know and one for all other purposes
- Avoid giving out your e-mail address unless you know how it will be used
- Never purchase anything advertised through an unsolicited e-mail

Credit Card Fraud

- Promptly reconcile bank statements to avoid unauthorized charges and monitor for fraudulent activity
- Report unauthorized transactions to your bank or Credit Card Company as soon as possible
- Never give a credit card number over the phone unless you make the call

Online Auction Fraud

- Before you bid, contact the seller with any questions you have
- Review the seller’s feedback
- Ensure you understand refund, return and warranty policies
- Determine the shipping charges before you buy
- If an escrow service is used, ensure it is legitimate
- Consider insuring your item

Debt Elimination Offers

- Obtain the name, address, and telephone number of the individual or company
- Ensure you understand all terms and conditions of any agreement
- Ask for names of other customers of the individual or company and contact them

Employment/Business Opportunities

- Be wary of inflated claims of product effectiveness
- Be cautious of exaggerated claims of possible earnings or profits
- Beware when money is required up front for instructions or products
- Be “leery” when the job posting claims “no experience necessary”
- Do not give your social security number when first interacting with your prospective employer

Identity Theft

- Attempt to obtain a physical address, rather than a Post Office Box or mail drop
- Never throw away credit card or bank statements in usable form
- Be aware of missed bills, which could indicate your account has been taken over
- Review a copy of your credit report at least once a year

Investment Fraud, Ponzi and Pyramid Schemes

- Beware of promises to make fast profits
- Do not invest in anything unless you understand the deal
- Be cautious of investments offering high returns at little or no risk
- Independently verify the terms of any investment which you intend to make
- Research the parties involved and the nature of the investment

Lotteries

- Be leery if you do not remember entering a lottery or contest
- Beware of lotteries charging a fee prior to delivery of your prize

- Be cautious of demands to send additional money to be eligible for future winnings
- It is violation of Federal law to play a foreign lottery via mail or phone

Nigerian Letter or “419”

- Be cautious of individuals representing themselves as foreign government officials
- Beware when asked to assist in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts
- Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation
- Be cautious when additional fees are requested to further the transactions

Reshipping Scamming

- Be cautious if you are asked to ship packages to an “overseas home office”
- Be leery if the individual states his country will not allow direct business shipments from the United States
- Be cautious if the “ship to” address is yours, but the name on the package is not
- Don’t accept packages which you didn’t order
- If you receive packages which you didn’t order, either refuse them upon delivery or contact the company where the package is from

Romance Scams

- Be cautious of individuals who claim the romance was destiny or fate, and you are meant to be together
- Be cautious if an individual tells you they are in love with you and they cannot live without you, but they need you to send them money so they can visit you. If you do not send them money or help them, they will claim you do not love them
- Fraudsters typically claim to be originally from the United States (or your local region), but are currently overseas, or going overseas, for business or family matters

PAGAN GROUPS: RESPONDING TO THREATS & VIOLENT SITUATIONS

Training for specific threat situations is key to keeping people safe. The first response to a security threat is to figure out what is actually occurring. **Rapidly assessing the situation and evaluating available options constitute the first steps toward survival.** This may include evacuating the building or hiding.

This initial assessment may identify the possibility of escape. In that case, **people should leave as quickly as possible**, without seeking approval from others or waiting to collect belongings. Once safe, they should immediately contact emergency personnel. In these situations, phone lines often become jammed, or individuals may think others have contacted authorities when, in reality, no one has called for help. Once connected to an emergency operator (9/11), certain information, should be relayed: description and location of the threat, number and types of weapons used (if any), and an estimate of the number of people in the building.

If escape is not feasible, employees can take other actions such as finding a hiding place. If an office space is available, workers can lock themselves in, barricade the door, and become very quiet so as not to alert the perpetrator. Individuals gathered together should disperse because it is easier to inflict a greater number of casualties when shooting at a group of people; therefore, spreading out will create confusion and provide fewer targets, resulting in fewer victims. Another critical action is ongoing communication with others. Keeping everyone informed of the situation and helping the injured are important to surviving an active-shooter event.

Although escaping or hiding from danger are solid survival strategies, they may not always be possible. The shooter may directly confront workers. When this occurs, they must be prepared to know what they have to do and understand that **neutralizing the shooter (including killing or injuring them) may be their only way to survive.** Coming to terms with this fact and then committing to it may prove necessary and likely mean the difference between life and death

CONCLUSION

In general, pagans are not inherently at more risk than the overall population of Washington State. However, the risk to individual pagans can vary widely based on:

1. Age: People under 30 are at higher risk of victimization than older people.
2. Geographic location: Some locations are more dangerous than others.
Understanding the types of crime that occurs in specific locations can mitigate the risk significantly
3. Sexual Orientation/Identity: There is always a risk of being a victim of a hate crime. Basic personal security can mitigate the risks of victimization.
4. Substance Abuse/Addiction: Substance abuse and addiction are often associated with crime and victimization. Seeking professional help can significantly reduce these risks.
5. Lifestyle: Some lifestyles and activities are more risky than others. People should understand the risks.

Pagans are most likely to be physically attacked by people they know, with domestic violence being one of the leading cause of victimization. **Most physical attacks do not involve weapons** but knives, handguns and clubs are common weapons when used in attacks.

Gangs is a major threat in Washington and especially in King and Pierce counties. **Terrorism continues to be a major threat** with Islamic Terrorism being the most dangerous and Animal Rights & Ecoterrorism bring the most likely. Rightwing extremism seems to be more prevalent east of the cascades and in Oregon than in Western Washington. Pagans also have a high risk of being victimized online by fraud, identity theft and online harassment.

Finally, Pagan groups should have a process for identifying and dealing with high risk individuals who are likely to pose a significant risk to their community. Groups will need to balance being an open and welcoming organization and keeping their members safe.

SOURCES & RESOURCES

1. [Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis](#)
2. [The Domestic Terrorist Threat: Background and Issues for Congress](#)
3. [ATF Northern Border Extremists Overview of American / Canadian Extremists](#)
4. [Statewide Gang Response Mapping](#)
5. [2011 National Gang Threat Assessment – Emerging Trends](#)
6. [WASHINGTON STATE GANG INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN 2010](#)
7. [DHS-FBI Small Arms, Lone Shooters and Small-Unit Tactics Warning](#)
8. [Updated Small Arms and Lone Shooters Warning August 2011](#)
9. [NJROIC-Mass Shootings](#)
10. [Case Study Analysis Acts of Violence Attributed by Behavioral and Mental Health Issues](#)
11. [DHS Bulletin: Self-identified Anarchist Extremists Target Urban Gentrification Sites with Arson](#)
12. [Special Assessment: ISIL Threats Against the Homeland.](#)
13. [TSA's Preparedness for Mass Transit and Passenger](#)
14. [Jihadist Propaganda Provides Guidance For Lone Offender Attacks Against Law Enforcement](#)
15. [Radicalization: Relevant Psychological and Sociological Concepts](#)
16. [Domestic Violent Extremists Pose Increased Threat to Government Law Enforcement](#)
17. [DHS Intelligence Assessment: Sovereign Citizen Extremist Ideology Driving Violence](#)
18. [DHS-FBI Bulletin: Twenty Years After Oklahoma City Bombing, Domestic Extremism Remains a Persistent Threat](#)
19. [Radicalization A Guide for the Perplexed](#)
20. [DHS Report: Assessing ISIL's Influence and Perceived Legitimacy in the Homeland](#)
21. [SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION](#)
22. [Current Threat to the U.S. from Cyber Espionage & Cyberterrorism](#)
23. [Facts about sex offenders and predators](#)
24. [Washington State Offender Search](#)
25. [National Sex Offender Quick Search](#)

26. [Social Networking Sites Online Friendships Can Mean Offline Peril](#)