

Oregon ranks No. 17 for bank robberies; No. 2 for solved robberies at 61%

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Preliminary analysis shows the State of Oregon ranks 17th for its overall number of bank robberies, bank burglaries and bank larcenies for 2006. It ranks second in terms of the number of solved cases in states with as many or more such crimes. In 2006, Oregon saw 178 bank robberies, three bank burglaries and zero larcenies. Of those, FBI Agents and local police officers have solved approximately 61% of those cases.

Washington ranked 9th overall with a total of 273 such crimes. It has a solution rate of approximately 73%. During this same period, there were a total of 7,238 bank robberies, burglaries and larcenies nationwide. The national solution rate is approximately 48%. Solution rates for 2006 will continue to go up as some of these older crimes are solved in 2007.

In Oregon, Friday was the busiest day for incidents (41) although Mondays (35), Tuesdays (39) and Thursdays (34) were also active. About a third of incidents (63) happened between 3 and 6 p.m. Most of the rest were split fairly evenly between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

At this point, Oregon investigators have identified 189 people as being involved in these crimes. Of those, 146 are white men, 21 are black men, and eight are Hispanic men. Nine are white women, and one is a black woman. The remaining three are unknown men. In a total of 23 incidents, the subject tried to use a facial disguise. At least 19 of the people are suspected of or charged with committing multiple robberies, ranging from two crimes to as many as nine.

The subject threatened a weapon in 75 incidents and actually used a handgun 20 times. The subject threatened an explosive device in four incidents. The majority of getaways (121) were on foot, while witnesses actually observed a vehicle getaway in 39 cases. This includes the use of bicycles in seven incidents.

The overwhelming majority (73) of solved cases were the result of FBI Agents and local police officers working jointly to identify and arrest subjects. Working independently, the FBI is responsible for 27 arrests and the local police 10. Almost half of the solutions came either at the time of the incident or within a month after it. The remainder came within the first three months.

The rate of incidents per city are as follows:

Portland: 85

Portland Suburbs: 33

Tigard: 7 Milwaukie: 5 Clackamas: 4 Gresham: 4 Wilsonville: 3 Hillsboro: 2 Beaverton: 2 Aloha: 1
Fairview: 1 Gladstone: 1 Lake Oswego: 1 Tualatin: 1 West Linn: 1

Eugene: 24 Salem: 7 Medford: 5 Springfield: 5 Albany: 2 Grants Pass: 2 Keizer: 2 North Bend: 2 Rainier: 2
Ashland: 1 Brookings: 1 Corvallis: 1 Creswell: 1 Gearhart: 1 Gold Hill: 1 Hood River: 1 McMinnville: 1
Myrtle Point: 1 Redmond: 1 Roseburg: 1 Weston: 1 Woodburn: 1

Oregon has an average of 4.9 bank robberies/burglaries per 100,000 people. In comparison, the U.S. as a whole has an average of 2.4 bank robberies/burglaries per 100,000 people.

Anyone with information about any outstanding bank robbery case is encouraged to call the FBI at (503) 224-4181

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