

## **Intentional Damage to Property How Stupid of Crime**

South Dakota State law defines Intentional Damage to Property in three divisions. The first is a class 2 misdemeanor maximum punishment 30 days in jail \$200.00 fine or both if the damage to the property is in \$100.00 or less. If the property has a value of over \$100.00 but less than \$500.00 the maximum punishment is 1 year in county jail \$1000.00 fine or both which is a Class 1 Misdemeanor. Thirdly if the property value is over \$500.00 you can be charged with a Class 4 Felony which is punishable up to 10 years in the South Dakota State Penitentiary and a \$10,000.00 fine.

You must remember when we apprehend suspects that have done such a stupid crime they also will have to make restitution to the victim. In today's society it does not take long to have a very large restitution bill. I will admit that damage to property is one of the hardest crimes to investigate since there is very little evidence left behind.

One of the most damaged properties that we have been investigating lately is damage to rural mailboxes. It seems that the northern part of the county has been more susceptible to this. Some would ask "isn't damaging a mailbox a Federal offense". I can only say that investigating and seeing the prosecution over the past 23 years that I have been working in Turner County that has never happened.

I would seem that damaging someone's property whether a mailbox or busting out someone window is so senseless. What have you gained by damaging someone's property there is no financial gain. If you get caught you have all to lose. The next time you are thinking that damaging someone's property is the thing to do I would suggest you should think twice. If anyone has any information with regards to the damage to the mailboxes along the northern county line with in the past couple of months please call the Turner County Sheriff's Office.

Halloween is just around the corner. Please watch for the small children who are out Trick or Treating.