



## Seattle Police Head Back to Class for a Course in Chair-Sitting 101

By: Bill Richards

Seattle—Maybe it's because traditional crime has been tumbling in this city lately, but Seattle police employees have found an unusual new danger to draw attention on — their chairs.

Members of the department's fingerprint-identification section were ordered to attend a class yesterday after two employees in the 26-member unit fell off their chairs and a third was injured when her chair seat dropped suddenly. All filed workers' compensation claims.

The subject of the mandatory session, as spelled out in a March 19 departmental memorandum: "Chairs/Sitting."

"Until the safety officer can come down and give the formal training please inform all your employees to take hold of the arms, and get control of the chair before sitting down," Friday's memo states.

Janice Corbin, director of human resources for the 1,867-member po-

lice department, said the safety session is required by Washington law whenever an employee files a workers' compensation claim for an injury on the job.

"We get all kinds of claims for everything from dog bites to gunshot wounds," Ms. Corbin said. Injuries from sitting down, while not unknown, are rare, she added: "This is pretty lightweight compared to the things we usually have to deal with."

Two of the hurt workers fell off chairs that were on rollers, which slid on the unit's slippery floor. "The floors are linoleum, the chairs have rollers and they fell on the floor," Ms. Corbin said. Neither one was seriously injured, she added.

Police officials removed the rolling chairs but said the fingerprint workers then complained that chairs without wheels gave them neck pains, and they demanded them back. A police department spokeswoman said the employees would get their roller

chairs back after they were instructed in how to use them.

The spokeswoman said employees are usually given one-on-one safety instruction by a supervisor after an accident claim is filed. "we figured we could handle this subject with a team approach," she said.

Asked what the instruction were, she said, "You know, I've never had that problem. So I can't tell you."

Although the number of chair-sitting claims is unusual in such a short time, the police spokeswoman said employees in other parts of the department have had similar accidents in the past. "It may seem amusing," she said, "but it's not very funny to the person who files the claim." ■

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## AFIS/LIVE SCAN USERS GROUP REPORT

By Bill Shade

February saw over 350 people from around the country gather in Los Angeles California for an IAFIS CONNECTIVITY CONFERENCE. For those who are not familiar with IAFIS, it is the FBI's long awaited Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System. The conference agenda included presentations on Fingerprint Standards, Connectivity Planning, and availability of User Assistance, as well as breakout sessions on the various areas of interest. In addition, there were presentations by five of the states participating in beta testing of the national system on the "lessons learned."

Florida was represented by Gerald Brooks, Charles Schaeffer, and Jim Gettemy from FDLE, Richard Laite, from the DEA, Glen Calhoun, Miami Dade Pd, Julie Shoff, Broward SO, Scott Barnett, Collier County SO, and Bill Schade from Pinellas SO. Attendance at this

conference was by FBI invitation and we can be proud of the recognition such a large turnout brings to Florida and the FDIAI.

The FDLE CJIS conference is being held in Pinellas County again at the same location as last year. The dates have been pushed back into July however, so those of you who are thinking May need to make an adjustment. Anyone who works with or has an interest in submitting arrest information to the state would benefit from attending this conference. As electronic submission of fingerprints and arrest information becomes more commonplace, we need to see the "big picture." The CJIS conference is a good way to do that.

The photograph below was taken in Los Angeles during the IAFIS conference. Along with being one of the largest groups, Florida was also one of the best looking.