



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 8

West Valley Senior Lead Office (818) 374-7630
Sergeant Frank Avila - Sergeant Anna Izzo

August 2010

Log onto www.lapdonline.org today! You can view information on crime in your neighborhood; you can get the monthly newsletter and sign up for e-policing, a real-time way to get information from LAPD to you!

Don't Be a Victim of An Auto – Related Property Crime



LOCK IT is a reminder to always lock your vehicle

HIDE IT if you have to leave your valuables in the vehicle, hide them from plain sight

KEEP IT is a positive reminder that personal responsibility and prevention can safeguard your valuables from theft.

For more Crime Prevention Information or to get involved in Neighborhood Watch, contact your local Los Angeles Police Station or visit our Web Site at WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG

DON'T BE A VICTIM

Here is a list of items to help avoid burglaries from your vehicle:

- Don't make your keys an easy target; keep them with you at all times.
- Close your windows and sun roof and lock your doors every time you leave your car.
- Do not leave your keys in the ignition even if you leave your vehicle for only a moment (i.e. you want to run into the cashier at the gas station or you want to leave the air conditioning running while parked in your driveway at home).
- Activate your alarm every time you leave your vehicle.
- Always take personal belongings with you. Thieves break in to cars when they can see a prize: MP3 player, iPod, laptop computer, digital camera, GPS, cell phone, wallet or credit cards. Don't create an atmosphere that is conducive to theft.
- If you must put something of value in your trunk do so before you reach your destination.

- Don't hide spare keys in your vehicle even if they are not visible. Thieves know where to look.
- Never leave luggage unattended on roof racks. This also includes bicycles, surfboards, and skis.
- Don't leave important documents in your car. Eliminate all personal information (home address) from your motor vehicle registration that is kept in your glove compartment.
- Record your license plate number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Keep this information in a secure place away from your vehicle. If your vehicle is stolen, the police will need this information to take the report.
- Always park in high traffic or well lit areas, when possible.
- Install an ignition or starter "kill" switch to prevent the theft of your car.
- If your vehicle is stolen, report it to the police immediately.

FOR EMERGENCY POLICE DISPATCH CALL 9-1-1

FOR NON-EMERGENCY POLICE DISPATCH CALL (877) ASK-LAPD/ (877) 275-5273

Every year in the City of Los Angeles approximately 30,000 vehicles are stolen. Vehicle theft represents approximately 24% of the property crimes and 18% of total crime in the City. According to the FBI crime statistics, a car is stolen every 30 seconds. The experienced car thief can steal a car in less than a minute.

Car thefts seem to occur with greater frequency where large groups of cars are parked for extended periods of time in places such as shopping centers, colleges, sporting events, movie theaters, and large apartment complexes. Car thefts occur at random and on different days of the week and times of the day, depending on the locations.

Be cautious and don't help a thief! **REMEMBER "LOCK IT - HIDE IT - KEEP IT!"**

ENCINO:

Senior Lead Officer Robert Trulik Office (818) 374-7637
32325@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2572

Contact Officer Trulik for information on the next Encino Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

AUTO THEFT AND CAR JACKING

Keep your car in good running condition. Make sure there's enough gas to get you where you are going and back. Always roll up your windows and lock your car doors, even if you are coming right back. Check inside and outside before getting into your vehicle. Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in parking lots and underground parking garages. If you think someone

is following you, don't head home. Drive to the nearest police or fire station, gas station or other open business to get help. Don't pick up hitchhikers, and don't hitchhike.



“BE SAFE”

LAKE BALBOA:

Senior Lead Officer David Ham Office (818) 374-7634
25717@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2551

Senior Lead Officer Saul Paredes Office (818) 374-7635
35275@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2554

Contact Officers Ham or Paredes for information on the next Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

BASIC STREET SENSE

Wherever you are - on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, waiting for a bus or taxi or driving - stay alert and tuned into your surroundings. Send the message that you're calm, confident and you know where you're going. Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave. Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals, restaurants or stores that are open late.

RESEDA:

Senior Lead Officer Isela Parra Office (818) 374-7631
34488@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2574
Senior Lead Officer Royal Barber Office (818) 374-7629
33970@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2580

Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting – Thursday, September 9 – 7:00 p.m.
L.A.P.D. Community Room

TRAVELING ON FOOT

Stick to well traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through parking lots or alleys. Don't flash large amounts of cash or other tempting targets like expensive jewelry or clothing. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside pocket, not in a back pocket. Try to use automated teller machines in the daytime. Have your ATM card in hand and don't approach the machine or use your card from your car if you're uneasy about people nearby. Have your car or house key in hand before you reach your door. If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street. Walk toward an open store, restaurant, or lit house. If you are afraid yell for help. If you have to work late make sure others are in the building and ask someone, whether it be a colleague or security guard, to walk you to your car.

TARZANA:

Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins Office (818) 374-7632
35828@lapd.lacity.org Cell (818) 731-2573

Contact Officer Scoggins for information on the next Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

IF SOMEONE TRIES TO ROB YOU

Don't resist. Give up your property; don't give up your life! Report the crime immediately to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. In identifying a suspect, work down from their head to their feet. The most important identifying features are: sex, height, eye color, race, weight, glasses, tattoos or scars, and approximate age; these are the least likely to be altered by the suspect. Also observe nationality, complexion, facial hair, shape of nose and lips, build, posture, type of walk, any physical disabilities, voice, language, accent, lisp or other speech characteristics. What were they wearing? Your actions can help others from becoming victims.