



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 1

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

January 2013

HOW TO REPORT CRIMES

Eyewitness information is the key to solving many crimes. The following tips will assist you when reporting crime to the LAPD. **Call immediately when you see something suspicious!** A five-minute delay can reduce the chance of catching criminals. Tell the LAPD as much as you can. No fact is too trivial. In many cases, what victims and witnesses tell the police about the criminal that results in an arrest. You may be asked the following when reporting a crime:

- Who, What, When, and Where?
- How many suspects were there?
- Can you describe the suspect(s)?
- Can you describe their vehicle(s)?
- What was/were the license plate number(s)?
- What did they do?
- What did they say?
- What did they take?
- Which way did they go?

Due to limited resources and personnel or a heavy emergency call load, the LAPD may not be able to respond immediately. They have to prioritize their responses based on apparent danger to human life. Don't be discouraged. They will get to you as soon as possible. Do not attempt to stop or detain the suspect(s) yourself.

What Is Suspicious?

Anything that seems even slightly "out of place" or is occurring at an unusual time of day or night could be criminal activity. The following are some obvious things to watch for:

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied;
- A scream heard anywhere might mean robbery or assault;
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices may mean stolen property;
- Anyone removing accessories, license plates, or gas from a vehicle should be reported;
- Anyone peering into parked vehicles may be looking for a vehicle to steal or for valuables left in the vehicle;
- Persons entering or leaving a place of business after hours;
- A sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, burglary or vandalism;
- Persons loitering around schools, parks and secluded areas could be sex offenders;
- Persons loitering in the neighborhood who do not live there; and
- Anyone forcing entry to, or tampering with a residence, business, or vehicle should be reported.

ENCINO:

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

Things To Watch Out For That Are Not So Obvious:

- **Strangers and solicitors.** Verify the employment of all solicitors, meter readers and repair personnel prior to allowing them entry into your home. This can be done by obtaining the employer's number from the telephone book or by contacting directory assistance. Never take a telephone number offered by a suspicious person. Be suspicious of alleged delivery personnel with a wrong address or asking if someone lives there.
- **Someone carrying property.** If it's at an unusual hour, unusual place, or if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased.
- **Someone going door-to-door in your neighborhood.** Watch for a while. If after a few houses are visited, one or more persons tries a door to see if it is locked, looks into windows, or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. Call LAPD immediately; don't wait for the person to leave.
- **Traffic to and from a certain residence.** It is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily basis or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours.
- **Any vehicle moving slowly and without lights, or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive in any location.** Particularly in areas of schools, parks and playgrounds. Occupants may be looking for places to rob or burglarize, or they could be drug pushers or sex offenders.
- **Parked vehicles containing one or more persons.** If it is an unusual hour they could be lookouts for a burglary in progress.
- **An abandoned vehicle parked on your block.** May be a stolen vehicle.
- **Continuous repair operations at non-business locations.** It could mean stolen property is being stripped, repainted or otherwise altered.

LAKE BALBOA:

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Senior Lead Officer Steve Olivares
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Contact Officer Ham or Officer Olivares for information on the next Lake Balboa Neighborhood Watch Meetings.

Suspect Identification

You must be able to give law enforcement officers the best possible description of a suspicious person or suspect. In identifying a suspect, work down from their head to their feet. The most important identification 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 did they wear?... color or type of clothing and anything else that might seem unusual. There is a vehicle and suspect description on the last page of this newsletter.

RESEDA:

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Next Neighborhood Watch Meetings – January 10 and February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

**Ann Kinzle Community Room located in the West Valley Community Police Station
located at 19020 Vanowen St. Reseda**

Directions and Locations

In order to give the police an accurate report of a crime or suspicious activity, you must be able to give an accurate description of the location. The description includes the directions; north, south, east or west. If you have trouble with directions, always remember the sun sets in the west. If you are facing west, east is behind you, north is to your right and south to your left. Learn the directions in which your streets run; north and south or east and west - perhaps even northwest or southeast. It is important to know directions for reporting information because saying the suspect went right or left is of little help and causes confusion. A location description is best given by (1) using the specific address, (2) stating the location of the incident, (3) describing how the incident occurred.

Remember: WHAT, WHEN, WHO, HOW, AND WHY are what the police need to know.

The list is endless. Trust your instincts. Anyone observed engaging in suspicious activity should be reported to the police. For emergencies call **9-1-1**. For non-emergencies call **(877) 275-5273**.

TARZANA:

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

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION FORM

LICENSE PLATE: STATE: NUMBER:

MAKE: MODEL: YEAR:

BODY STYLE (2-DOOR, CONVERTIBLE, ETC.):

COLOR:

Identifying hubcaps, wheels, dents, scratches, bumper stickers, decals, etc.:

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION FORM

SEX: RACE: AGE: HEIGHT: WEIGHT:

HAIR: COLOR: LENGTH: TYPE: STYLE:

EYES: COLOR: GLASSES: TYPE:

FACE: COMPLEXION: MUSTACHE: BEARD:

SKI MASK: STOCKING/MASK:

OTHER: TATOOS:

SCARS/MARKS:

SPEECH/ACCENT:

DISTINGUISHABLE GAIT/LIMP:

CLOTHING: CAP/HAT:

COAT/JACKET:

SHIRT/TIE OR BLOUSE:

PANTS:

SKIRT:

DRESS:

SHOES:

STOCKINGS:

GLOVES:

JEWELRY:

PURSE:

WEAPON: HAND GUN/KNIFE, ETC.: