



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Volume 18, Issue 9

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

September 2014

TIPS FOR REPORTING CRIME

Eyewitness information is the key to solving many crimes. The following tips will assist you when reporting crime to the LAPD. **Call immediately.** A five-minute delay can reduce the chance of catching criminals. Provide as much as you information as possible. No fact is too small. In most investigations, the information that victims and witnesses provide results in an arrest. You will probably be asked the following questions by the responding officers:

- 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 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 the day or night could be criminal activity. The following are some obvious things to watch for:

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house;
- 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 gasoline from a vehicle;
- 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;

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- 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.

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 access to your home or property. This can be done by obtaining the employer's number from the telephone book, internet 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 to open a door, looks into windows, or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. **Call 911 immediately;**
- **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. The occupants may be looking for places to commit a robbery, burglary, or they could be narcotic users 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.**

Suspect Identification

It is important to give law enforcement officers the best possible description of a suspicious person or suspect. When describing a suspect, start at the top of their head and work down to their feet. The most important identification features are: sex, height, eye color, race, weight, glasses, tattoos or scars, and approximate age. These features 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? The color and type of clothing worn, along with anything else that might seem unusual are also important traits to remember.

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 rises in the east and sets in the west.

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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: WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, 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**.

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:

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GLOVES:

JEWELRY:

PURSE:

WEAPON: HAND GUN/KNIFE, ETC.:

SENIOR LEAD OFFICER MEETING AND CONTACT INFORMATION

LAKE BALBOA:

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

Senior Lead Officer Steve Olivares	Office	(818) 374-7635
<u>34728@lapd.lacity.org</u>	Cell	(818) 731-2554

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

RESEDA:

Senior Lead Officer Isela Parra	Office	(818) 374-7631
<u>34488@lapd.lacity.org</u>	Cell	(818) 731-2574

Next Neighborhood Watch Meetings – September 11 and October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ann Kinzle Community Room located in the West Valley Community Police Station

TARZANA:

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

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

ENCINO:

Senior Lead Officer Bruce Oakley	Office	(818) 374-7636
<u>27238@lapd.lacity.org</u>	Cell	(818) 731-2572

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

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