

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

**Tarzana & Encino, 10A67/10A87, Senior Lead Officer Rob Trulik
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Hello Encino, Tarzana and Sherman Oaks,

While reviewing recent crime reports I am continuing to see Purse Thefts and Robberies where the item taken was a purse. I would like to remind residents to pay special attention while visiting and conducting business at our local shopping centers. The Suspects are usually targeting loan females in the parking lot of the business. The Suspects drive by the targeted Victim and lean out a moving vehicle's window. While reaching out the window the Suspects remove the Victim's purse from the unsupervised shopping cart. This generally occurs while the Victim is loading groceries or other items into their vehicle. The Suspects have also reached out the window of the moving vehicle and struggled with the Victims to remove the purse from the Victim's shoulder. Please notify store security or the Los Angeles Police Department if you see Suspects that you believe are involved in suspicious activity as soon as possible.

I have also noticed that we are seeing an increase in Burglary From Motor Vehicles in the area of Burbank Blvd to Ventura Blvd and Lindley Ave to White Oak Ave. Please remember to lock and secure your vehicles and remove valuables from view within the vehicle. Please also inform guests and visitors to do the same. Do not be fooled into thinking your vehicle is secure because it is in an underground parking structure. There has also been an increase in residential Burglaries in much of the same areas. Please monitor suspicious activity and report it to the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877- ASK-LAPD. Now is a great time to get involved in your neighborhood and stay informed. By joining your local Neighborhood Watch you might learn ways to prevent becoming a victim.

**West Hills, 10A51, Senior Lead Officer Peter Vanderburgh
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If you have not heard yet, Los Angeles City is the second **Safest Big City** in the Nation.

Thanks to all the hard work of Police Management and the men and women working the streets of Los Angeles to reduce crime and the fear of crime. I might add that without the help from our community members like you folks, volunteer service workers, and a total community commitment of all to reduce crime, we probably would have never made it to the top 10, so give yourself a big pat on the back.

I still need to remind our community members to remove all items of value out of your vehicles, such as: ipods, cell phones, cameras, and G.P.S units. We unfortunately have criminals floating around looking for an easy take by breaking your window and removing your valuables.

Canoga Park, 10A, Senior Lead Officer Alex Padron
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Greeting everyone, I want to take a moment to cover a very serious topic that could possible effect all of us at any given moment in time. The topic being Emergency Preparedness, and I am not just referring just to earthquakes because we live in Southern California. Disaster, either natural such as; earthquakes, floods, wild fires, winter storms, mudslides and most recently man-made ones like acts of terrorism. In the event of major disaster either natural or man-made, the odds are extremely high that if you needed assistance in the San Fernando Valley, so would a very large segment of the population.

We all observed the terrible effects that Hurricane Katrina had on New Orleans and its citizens. We observed how emergency medical and police personnel were pushed well beyond their capacity to render aid to the citizens in need. With this in mind, I strongly encourage everyone to please take some time and develop an emergency kit. It will give you some peace of mind to know that you will be able to take care of yourself for at **least three days** after any disaster. The following is a general guideline I have researched, but by all means take some time to investigate the topic for yourself and you will see just how far the list can go. Listed are web sites that offer additional valuable information on the topic. HYPERLINK "<http://www.redcross.org>" www.redcross.org or HYPERLINK "<http://www.72hours.org>" www.72hours.org or HYPERLINK "<http://www.fema.gov/areyouready>" www.fema.gov/areyouready

Disaster Kit (it should be in one bin to ‘grab and go’ in case you had to leave your home in a hurry like the recent wild fire victims did)

Water: Water for at least 3 days, at the rate of one gallon/person per day for drinking.

Food: Food for at least 3 days that requires minimal to no cooking because gas lines and electricity will be out of commission.

First Aid Kit: A fairly comprehensive kit with a first aid manual.

Medications: Medications you or anyone in your family require for any period of time.

Hygiene / Sanitation: Soap, toothbrush & paste, towels, germicidal hand wipes, etc.

US Currency: Some amount of US currency, in small denominations because the ATM’s will be out of service.

Flashlights: With lots of extra batteries, use caution if you choose to use candles because you do not want to burn down your home by mistake during times of added stress.

Small Radio: Battery operated, with extra batteries, or hand crank, to keep you abreast of shelter information.

Clothing/ Bedding: Warm clothing just in case you have to evacuate your home, and some type of tent or shelter.

“Community Awareness is the Key to Crime Prevention”

**Winnetka, 10A33 Senior Lead Officer Rachel Raigoza
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I have received an increase in the number of telephone calls related to door-to door sales. As a reminder everyone should remain attentive to personal safety and home security at all times. We often see individuals or groups of door-to door sales persons walking through various neighborhoods. However, not everyone who visits our neighborhoods have good intentions in mind. Please remember to be cautious whenever anyone knocks at your door.

Safety Tips:

Halloween is just around the corner, which means we can expect a lot of children to be out trick-or-treating. Here are a few Halloween safety tips that can make Halloween safer and more enjoyable.

Make sure children are always supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

Make sure that children are wearing bright colored costumes or using reflective tape to make them as visible as possible at night.

Always stay in a group, walk slowly (never run) and communicate.

Carry a flashlight.

**West Winnetka & Canoga Park, 10A57 Senior Lead Officer Janet Zumstein
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The Westfield Topanga Mall opened October 6, 2006. The normal business hours are Monday thru Friday from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Saturday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and Sunday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The mall added 130 new stores with new innovative sit-down dining. Three new parking structures with access direct to the center via unique Sky lobbies were also added. This mall is a great access to the neighborhood and I recommend checking it out when you can.

Halloween is October 31, 2006, so be careful when you are driving around that night. Keep in mind that there will be a lot of kids running around in the neighborhood, so allow yourself extra time to get around.

The Topanga Mall is also having trick-or-treating from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Crime is still down in the area so keep up the good work. By keeping your property secured, locking your doors, and being aware of your surroundings, you may prevent yourself from becoming a victim.

**Woodland Hills, 10A73/75, Senior Lead Officer Kip Jackson
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I will keep it brief, and ask you to contact me regarding individuals going through your trash cans either the night before, or the day of trash pick up. We are seeing quite a few Identity Theft crime reports coming through the Senior Lead Office. I also have several Recycle Theft Task Forces planned for the next few months, and I need some locations to focus on. Please assist the LAPD and Dept of Sanitation in capturing these Recycle Theft Suspects/Identity Theft Suspects.

It is illegal to tamper with refuse / rubbish and salvage, 66.28 LAMC. We recently just won our first test case with this section. Our Neighborhood Prosecutor (City Attorney Mike Pizzuti) has been instrumental in this enforcement and supports our efforts.

Reseda Senior Lead Officers 10A27 Jodie McGee / 10A47 Brent Rygh
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Hello Reseda, this is Officer Jodie McGee. I would like to congratulate Officer Brent Rygh on making Senior Lead Officer. Officer Rygh will take over 10A47's area.

Robberies are still a major crime concern for the Los Angeles Police Department and the citizens of Reseda.

- 1) Wherever you are, on a street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway – **Stay Alert!** Don't doze or daydream and stay tuned in to your surroundings.
- 2) Send a message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- 3) Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.