

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

October 2009

Hardening the Target

Seat belt law to be enforced during the holidays

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will be aggressively enforcing California's vehicle occupant laws as part of the state's 2009 Click it or Ticket mobilization in November. The campaign relies on heavy enforcement and public education to help California achieve the highest seat belt use rate in the nation, which in turn will help reduce deaths and injuries on California's roadways. Proper use of a seat belt cuts your chances of dying in a crash by half. California currently has an average seat belt use rate of 95.7 percent.

Cerritos deputies will be on the lookout for motorists and their passengers to ensure that everyone is

properly restrained. Law enforcement personnel will not accept excuses or give warnings.

California has a primary seat belt law which requires that every passenger in every car, including the driver, is required to wear a seat belt at all times. If a motorist is stopped and is found to be in violation, deputies will issue citations. Tickets for the first seat belt violation are \$132 for adults and \$446 for children under age 16, depending on the county.

While the buckle-up rate for adults has continued to climb in recent years, California's teens and nighttime car occupants' seat belt use rates lag behind the general population. Officers will be concentrating even more to ensure that everyone is properly restrained.

Funding for deputy over-time pay to support California's Click it or Ticket campaign will be provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Beware of Census scams

The United States Census will be held in April 2010. Unfortunately, scammers have already seized upon the opportunity.

Although census workers conduct another survey each month, beware of anyone who comes to your door between now and next spring claiming to be gathering data for the 2010 census.

Mailing of the official postage-paid census questionnaires begins in mid-March 2010. Each household will receive a questionnaire. Households that do not complete the questionnaire will receive another request and questionnaire. Census personnel will only conduct a home visit for households that do not respond to the second questionnaire.

The home visits by the census

workers will occur in 2010 between April and July.

In some communities, people posing as Census workers have come to peoples' doors, asked a few census-related questions, and then tried to solicit a donation. They may tell the resident that they aren't getting paid for travel expenses and need donations to recover the costs.

Identity theft is another potential threat. Census takers will never ask personal or financial information such as your Social Security number, bank account information or credit card accounts.

Additional tips to distinguish census takers from scammers are below:

- Legitimate census takers will wear an official badge and carry a black canvas shoulder bag

reading "U.S. Census Bureau."

The badge is not a photo ID but will contain the taker's name and signature. If you have doubts about a solicitor's identity, ask to see a driver's license or other photo identification.

- The U.S. Census Bureau will never send e-mails. Delete, without opening, any incoming e-mails alleged to be from the Census Bureau, as they may contain harmful spyware.
- Census workers will never solicit donations or other types of payment.
- To verify when home visits will be made in your area, or to report suspicious census-related activity, call your local Census Bureau office.

Monthly Crime Summary: September 2009

Cerritos Sheriff's Station personnel investigated 110 Part I felonies in the month of September, compared to 95 in August. With the exception of robberies (which remained the same), crimes for all of the reported categories increased in September. At the end of September, field deputies were handling a weekly average of 325 calls for service for 2009.

Robberies

There were six robbery incidents investigated by Cerritos deputies in September, the same as in August.

A male suspect demanded an MP3 player from another male in the 19400 block of Pioneer Boulevard on Friday, September 4 at 12:27 p.m. When the victim refused to relinquish it, the suspect struck the victim and fled on a bicycle.

An adult male was riding his bicycle on Artesia Boulevard at Mapes Avenue on Wednesday, September 9 at 10:20 p.m. when a vehicle pulled in front of him. Two suspects exited the vehicle and demanded his money. After a struggle ensued, a third suspect exited the vehicle and struck the victim. The victim's wallet containing cash and ID was taken.

On Friday, September 11 at 3:45 p.m. a male suspect entered

a bank in the 11800 block of South Street and robbed it after advising the teller he was armed.

On Monday, September 14 at 12:50 p.m. a male suspect entered a gas station in the 17200 block of Bloomfield Avenue and simulated a handgun. An employee relinquished cash from the register.

At 3:50 p.m. on Friday, September 18, a male suspect walked into a bank in the 11300 block of South Street and threatened to assault a teller if she failed to give him money. She complied and the suspect fled on foot.

Another robbery occurred on Sunday, September 20 at 6:51 p.m. when a male took merchandise from a store in the 20200 block of Bloomfield Avenue and was confronted by loss prevention personnel. The suspect fought but was eventually detained. Over \$200 worth of golf balls were recovered from his person.

Residential Burglaries

Thirteen residential burglaries were reported in September, up from 11 in August. Eight of the incidents in September were made possible by open/unlocked doors or windows. In addition, four were the result of

pried doors or windows, and one rear window was shattered. Laptop computers, golf clubs, jewelry, cash and tools were among the items reported stolen. The 2009 weekly average in residential burglaries was 2.4 at the end of the month.

Vehicle Burglaries

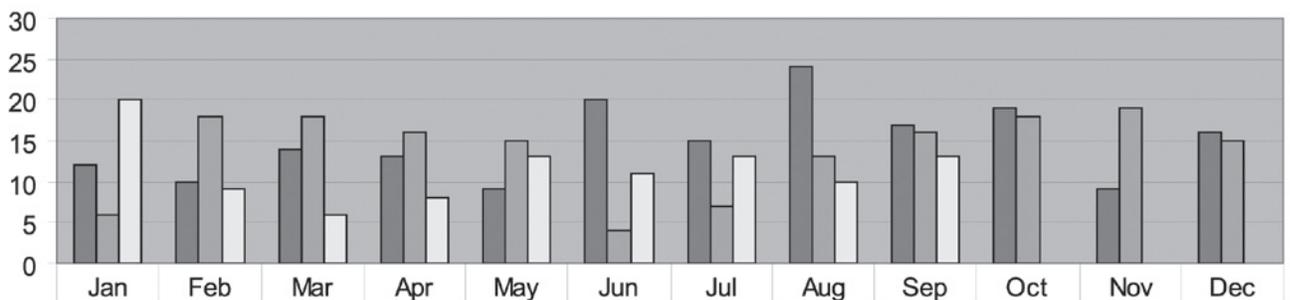
Thirty-four vehicle burglaries were logged in September, up from 30 in August.

Twenty-eight of the vehicles were burglarized in high-volume commercial parking lots. Nineteen of the vehicles were SUVs. Stereo items were removed from four vehicles and a GPS unit was taken from one vehicle. Laptop computers, credit cards, ID, wallets, purses and third row seats from SUVs were also reported stolen. The 2009 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is now 7.7.

Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts rose by one crime in September as 15 were reported. Thirteen were stolen from high-volume commercial parking lots. Seven SUVs, five Hondas, a Toyota, a motorcycle and a golf cart were stolen. The new 2009 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 4.6.

Residential Burglaries in Cerritos



■ Year 2007	12	10	14	13	9	20	15	24	17	19	9	16
■ Year 2008	6	18	18	16	15	4	7	13	16	18	19	15
□ Year 2009	20	9	6	8	13	11	13	10	13			

Safety Contacts:
Community Safety Division -
(562) 916-1266
Sheriff's Station - (562) 860-0044



To join Cerritos Neighborhood Watch, call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center at (562) 916-1266.