

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

December 2012

Hardening the Target

Be aware of coyotes in Cerritos

The Community Safety Division frequently receives reports of coyotes seen in various parts of the City. While this is not uncommon in the Cerritos community and surrounding areas, residents should be mindful of the following information to assist them in avoiding and coping with coyotes in the event that contact should occur.

Coyotes are known to traverse the City using flood control channels, freeway corridors, railroad right-of-ways and even streets. Although coyotes are primarily nocturnal and hunt at night in an effort to avoid humans, they have been sighted during daytime hours in various locations in Cerritos.

Items that attract coyotes include unattended pet food and water left in the backyard, loose trash, open-

lid containers, fallen fruit, compost consisting of fish meat or fish scraps and bird feeders with excessive seeds on the ground. Free-roaming pets, especially cats and sometimes small dogs, may attract coyotes into certain neighborhoods.

Hazing is an activity conducted to reinforce the natural fear of humans back into coyotes. This can be accomplished by standing tall while yelling and waving your arms, using noisemakers such as air horns and whistles and spraying a hose at the coyote. Hazing should be continuously used until the coyote has left the area.

For more information on hazing techniques and living with coyotes in an urban environment, visit the Long Beach Animal Care Services website at longbeach.gov/acs.

Verify your credit card and bank records

Traditionally, the greatest number of credit card transactions are made during the holiday season. When the holidays are over, bills will start to arrive in the form of statements. Many people check their accounts online, which is becoming a more secure and faster method of monitoring accounts. Others rely on a mailed statement each month.

Regardless of which method you use to receive your statements, pay particular attention to each transaction and make sure that it is correct. With the flurry of activity during the holidays, it is easier to

miss something that could reveal unauthorized use of your credit card.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station/Community Safety Center recommends that you carefully review your bills each month or every time you access an account online. This should be done on a regular basis and not just after the holidays. A free annual credit report can be obtained that provides a synopsis of any account opened in your name. This is another method to spot unauthorized activities in time to lessen any negative effect on your credit rating.

Take a holiday inventory

Just after the holidays is a good time to update or create an inventory of valuable items in your house. Take photos or make videos of the items you own and include descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.

Make sure that items like televisions, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list.

Be an alert neighbor

Recently, alert neighbors have contacted the Cerritos Sheriff's Station to report residential burglaries in progress. These calls were based on neighbors' observations of unfamiliar individuals walking through side areas and gates of nearby properties.

This is an example of the partnership that exists between residents and law enforcement and is exactly what is needed to ensure our neighbors are not victimized.

PLEASE call 911 if you observe anything suspicious. Don't dismiss the activity by questioning yourself or thinking that the Sheriff's Station would not find the information valuable. This is how we all partner in crime prevention.

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Monthly Crime Summary: November 2012

There were 119 Part I felony investigations conducted by members of the Cerritos Sheriff's Station in November, down from 127 in October. Compared to October, robberies, vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts increased in November and residential burglaries decreased. Patrol deputies handled a 2012 weekly average of 270 calls for service by the end of November.

Robberies

There were nine robberies investigated by Cerritos deputies in November, up from seven in October.

A domestic matter was reported as a robbery on Wednesday, November 7 at 2:20 p.m. in a lot located in the 11100 block of 183rd Street. A male suspect was taken into custody after he allegedly victimized his ex-wife and took her cell phone.

On Sunday, November 11 at 6:41 p.m. deputies responded to a call from a bank in the 13200 block of South Street regarding an

armed attempted robbery. A male victim was sitting in his vehicle at the drive-through ATM when two male suspects approached him. One suspect produced a handgun, but the victim quickly accelerated and fled the area.

Approximately 20 minutes later, deputies responded to a restaurant in the Cerritos Towne Center where a male and female were parked in their vehicle when two suspects with the same description as above pointed a dark-colored handgun at them and took a small amount of cash.

Approximately 20 minutes after that crime, another call was received about an armed robbery at Norwalk Boulevard and Artesia Boulevard. What is believed to be the same two suspects forced a male victim to withdraw a small amount of cash from an ATM.

Two additional robberies involving the same two suspects occurred in the Lakewood Sheriff's Station area of operation just after the Cerritos crimes.

On Tuesday, November 20 at 7:31 p.m. a male suspect entered a retail store in the Cerritos Towne Center, produced a handgun and stole cash from a register.

Approximately 30 minutes later another male suspect robbed a fast food restaurant in the 13300 block of Artesia Boulevard.

Approximately 30 minutes after that robbery, a male shoplifting suspect fought with loss prevention personnel at a retail store in the 11500 block of South Street and was taken into custody.

On Wednesday, November 21 at 5:35 p.m. a male suspect wielding a handgun robbed a gas station in the 11000 block of South Street.

On Friday, November 23 at 12:30 p.m. a male suspect entered a bank in the 11300 block of South

Street, passed a demand note to a teller and escaped with cash.

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries dropped from 31 in October to 26 in November. Sixteen of the recent crimes were facilitated by open/unlocked doors or windows. Six windows were pried open, three were shattered and one door was kicked in. Among the items listed as missing by victims were tools, cameras, televisions, jewelry, safes, handguns, laptop computers, cell phones and cash. The 2012 weekly average in residential burglaries at the end of November was 5.1.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries increased from 23 in October to 27 in November. Twenty-two of the November cases occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Twenty-two of the cases also involved SUVs. Stereo items were taken in four crimes. Tools, purses, makeup, clothing, shoes, sunglasses, perfume, briefcases, wallets and third-row seats from SUVs were reported stolen. The new 2012 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 6.9.

Vehicle Thefts

There were 24 vehicle thefts logged in November compared to 14 in October. Twenty-one of the November thefts occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Twelve of the vehicles stolen were Hondas, four were SUVs and five were Toyotas. The new 2012 weekly average in vehicle thefts is 3.5.

Prevent vehicle burglary

Remember to help prevent vehicle burglary by NEVER leaving any valuable items inside the passenger compartment of your vehicle.

If you absolutely must leave valuables in your vehicle, lock them in the trunk.

If you own an SUV or pick-up truck, you do not have this option and thieves know it, so take extra care to conceal your valuables.

Scan this code to view the City of Cerritos' safety website, safercerritos.com.



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.