

Cerritos Neighborhood Watch Report

February 2013

Hardening the Target

Consider available options when selecting home security systems

When choosing a home security system, it is important to consider all of the available options. This also holds true for those who may already have a home security system in place, but may be thinking about upgrading their system.

All home security systems provide added protection to a residence and serve as an excellent deterrent to potential burglars and trespassers. There are several different types of systems now available.

The most standard type of security system utilizes a landline telephone connection to communicate with a monitoring facility. When an alarm is triggered, the system sends a signal through the landline to the monitoring facility, which then responds to the alarm and dispatches authorities to the home if necessary. Landline, or wired, systems are good for homes that have poor cell phone reception or lack high speed Internet services. They are also typically the lowest cost monitoring solution available.

Another type of security system utilizes a broadband Internet connection to communicate with a monitoring facility when an alarm is triggered. This type of system provides a much faster connection compared to a landline system. It is also a good option for those who no longer have landline telephones in their home. This type of system typically allows individuals to check on the status of and arm or disarm

the system online or through the use of smart phone applications. However, if you experience an Internet or power outage, this could potentially disable or delay the security system features.

A third type of home security system requires no landline phone or Internet connection, and utilizes cellular monitoring. Because the connection is cellular, installation is relatively simple and the alarm system is wireless. With this type of system, you can also monitor your home's security status using a mobile application or Internet connection.

This option eliminates the opportunity for thieves to bypass standard security systems by simply cutting the wires that lead to your home. This type of system requires adequate cellular phone coverage in your area, and you must establish some type of cellular service in order for it to operate.

Wireless security systems are gaining popularity due to their easy installation, versatility and portability. However, when deciding on what type of home security system is right for you, consider that wireless systems usually have a limited range of effectiveness in terms of where they are able to easily transmit information back to the receiving device. They also tend to be a bit more expensive than wired security systems.

Another security option to consider is a home security camera

system. Cameras provide extra protection by acting as a deterrent for burglars who do not want to be caught on camera. They also supply recorded information that can be used if needed, and allow remote monitoring of your property from any location. Security cameras can increase the value of a home, and some insurance companies give discounts to those whose property is equipped with a good security system.

Public safety information provided through social media

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station now offers a new website, Facebook page and Twitter feed to share public safety information with Cerritos residents and businesses.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station's new website and Facebook page provide current stories, public safety tips and information about how Sheriff's personnel are working to keep the City safe. The website is located at Cerritos.LASD.org and the Facebook page can be accessed at Facebook.com/CerritosSheriffsStation.

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station also has a Twitter feed, @CERLASD, to share information immediately with followers. For more information, call the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044.

Monthly Crime Summary: January 2013

Cerritos Sheriff's Station personnel investigated 125 Part I felony crimes in January, up from 119 in December. Vehicle burglaries increased in January while robberies, residential burglaries and vehicle thefts decreased compared to December figures. Patrol deputies responded to a new weekly average of 279 calls for service in January.

Robberies

There were four robbery incidents reported to Cerritos deputies in January, down from nine in December.

During a Craigslist laptop transaction on Wednesday, January 2 at 3 p.m., three male suspects robbed a male victim of cash in the 19700 block of Sheryl Avenue. One of the suspects was later identified and arrested.

Two male suspects robbed a gas station in the 13300 block of South Street at gunpoint on Tuesday, January 8 at 10:30 p.m. Following that crime, the suspects robbed three other gas stations in

Orange County, but were arrested just before robbing a fourth.

A male shoplifting suspect fought with loss prevention employees at a retail store in the Los Cerritos Center on Tuesday, January 15 at 9:30 p.m. He was subsequently taken into custody and a stolen watch was recovered.

A female shoplifting suspect struggled with and choked a loss prevention employee at a retail store in the Los Cerritos Center on Friday, January 25 at 3:01 p.m. The suspect was ultimately taken into custody.

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries dropped from 43 in December to 37 in January. Open/unlocked doors or windows were the entry points in 12 of the January cases. Twelve of the cases were attributed to shattered windows, 11 to doors or windows that were pried open and two to doors that were kicked in. Victims reported the loss of jewelry, cash, laptop computers, handguns, tools,

purses, electronic games, iPads and liquor. At the end of January, the new 2013 weekly average in residential burglaries was 7.8.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries increased from 33 in December to 35 in January. Of these recent cases, 27 occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. SUVs were involved in 20 of the incidents and three stereos and three GPS units were taken. Other property reported stolen included third-row seats from SUVs, credit cards, clothing, laptop computers, televisions, wallets, purses, perfume, cell phones and a cello. The new 2013 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 8.6.

Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts dropped from 19 in December to 15 in January. All 15 vehicles were stolen from high-volume commercial parking lots. Two were SUVs, 10 were Hondas and one was a Toyota. Detached trailers were also stolen. The 2013 weekly average in vehicle thefts is now 3.6.

Spot and report drunk drivers by calling 911

How to Spot a Drunk Driver

The following signs can help you detect an impaired driver on the road:

- Turning with a wide radius
- Straddling the center of the road or lane marker
- Appearing to be drunk (i.e., eye fixation, face close to windshield, drinking in the vehicle)
- Almost striking an object or another vehicle
- Weaving or zigzagging across the road
- Driving on surfaces other than a designated roadway
- Swerving or abruptly turning away from a generally straight course
- Turning abruptly or illegally
- Driving slower than 10 miles per

hour below the speed limit

- Stopping without cause in a traffic lane
- Stopping inappropriately
- Following others too closely
- Drifting or moving in a straight line
- Erratic braking
- Driving into opposing or crossing traffic
- Signaling that is inconsistent with driving actions
- Slow response to traffic signals, including sudden stops and delayed starts
- Driving with headlights off

How to Report a Drunk Driver

- Call 911 if on the freeway or the seven-digit number of your local law enforcement agency and tell them you wish to report a drunk

driver.

- Give the exact location of the vehicle, including the name of the road or cross streets and the direction the vehicle is traveling.
- Give a complete description of the vehicle, such as make, model, color and license plate.
- Describe the manner in which the vehicle is being driven.

– Information courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**Next Neighborhood Watch
Town Hall Meeting:
Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.
Cerritos Park East
(13224 E. 166th Street)**

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.