

Cerritos

Neighborhood

Watch Report

June 2013

Hardening the Target

Children's Hospital of Orange County offers swimming pool safety tips

Children and water can be a fatal combination. Drowning is a quick, silent event. A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.

The good news is that this does not have to happen to your child. Drowning deaths can be prevented if the right action steps are taken:

- Never leave a child unattended near water in a pool, tub, bucket or ocean. There is no substitute for adult supervision.
- The home should be isolated from the pool by a fence at least 60" tall, with a self-closing, self-latching gate. The gate should open away from the pool, and should never be propped open.
- Alarm doors and windows to alert adults when they are opened. Doors should be self-closing and self-latching.
- Power-operated pool safety covers are the most convenient and efficient. Solar/floating pool covers are not safety devices.
- Keep a phone at poolside so that you never have to leave the pool to answer the phone and can call for help if needed.
- Have a life-saving ring and shepherd's hook next to the pool.
- Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards and emphasize the need for constant supervision.
- Responsibilities of pool ownership include ensuring children in the home learn to swim, and that adults know CPR.
- Do not consider children "drown proof" because they've had swimming lessons. Watch your child in and around water. If your child turns up missing, check bodies of water first.
- Place pool safety barriers between your child and the pool. Pool safety barriers can buy you time if your child leaves your sight and heads towards the pool.
- Assign a "Water Watcher," who knows how to swim, to watch over children in the pool during parties.
- Remove toys in and around the pool when the pool is not in use.
- Flotation devices such as water wings are considered toys and should not be used as a substitute for watching your child.
- Water should be drained out of buckets and wading pools when they are not in use.
- Never leave a child unattended in the bathtub or count on a baby bath ring or seat to keep your child safe.

Open garage doors present criminal opportunities

The Cerritos Sheriff's Station, Cerritos Community Safety Division and Sheriff's Volunteers on Patrol have reported an increase in the amount of residential garage doors that are being left open during the day and at night. With the arrival of summer and warmer weather, we urge you to consider the potential consequences of leaving these doors open and unattended. Even when owners are in the backyard, there have been incidents where

perpetrators entered the garage to steal items.

Make it a point to close your garage door if you are not planning to maintain visual contact with the front of your house. If you see your neighbor's garage door open, try to contact them and pass on this important message. If you are unable to contact them, be a good neighbor and keep an eye on their property. You never know when an opportunistic would-be thief will be convert-

ed into a spontaneous criminal.

Residents have increased their awareness in neighborhoods and have been calling in to report suspicious people and vehicles in light of the recent attention placed on residential burglaries. If you do see something suspicious, do not hesitate to contact the Cerritos Sheriff's Station at (562) 860-0044. To report a crime in progress or anything that you suspect could be a crime in progress, dial 911 immediately.

Monthly Crime Summary: May 2013

There were 124 Part I felony crimes reported to the Cerritos Sheriff's Station in May, a slight increase from 121 in April. Residential burglaries and vehicle thefts were up in May. Robberies remained the same and vehicle burglaries dropped. At the end of May, patrol deputies were handling a weekly average of 295 calls for service in 2013.

Robberies

There were two robbery incidents and one attempted robbery investigated by Cerritos deputies in May, compared to three robberies in April.

On Monday, May 6 at 8:47 p.m., a female victim was in a parking

lot in the 11400 block of South Street when she was approached by a male suspect who simulated a weapon and demanded her wallet and cell phone. After the victim complied, the suspect fled on foot. The cell phone was located at Mapes Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard a short time later.

One attempted robbery was investigated on Thursday, May 23 at 2:55 p.m. A male suspect grabbed a deposit bag from a victim in the 18700 block of Gridley Road. The two struggled and the suspect ultimately fled without the property.

At 10:06 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, a male suspect approached a female victim on a lot near Palo

Verde Avenue and South Street and grabbed a bag that she was carrying. The suspect fled with the property to a waiting vehicle that was driven by a second suspect.

Residential Burglaries

Residential burglaries increased from 19 in April to 27 in May. Thirteen of the incidents in May were the result of open/unlocked doors or windows. Seven entries were made by prying open a sliding glass door and a window. Four doors were kicked in and three windows were shattered. Televisions, jewelry, bicycles, cameras, laptop computers, a washer and a dryer were among the items reported stolen. At the end of May the new 2013 weekly average in residential burglaries was 5.4.

Vehicle Burglaries

Vehicle burglaries dropped from 37 in April to 26 in May. Fifteen of the May crimes occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Twenty-three of the vehicles targeted were SUVs. GPS units were taken in five crimes and stereo units in four. Other property reported missing included screw guns, tools, laptop computers, sunglasses, bowling balls, briefcases, purses, wallets, cash, credit cards, flashlights, keys, a toaster and third-row seats from SUVs. The new 2013 weekly average in vehicle burglaries is 7.9.

Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts increased by one in May compared to April when 23 were investigated. Twenty-one of the crimes in May occurred in high-volume commercial parking lots. Nine were Hondas, six were SUVs and two were Toyotas. Commercial trailers, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles were also stolen. The 2013 weekly average in vehicle thefts is now 3.8.

Fireworks are not allowed in Cerritos

The months of January and July are often associated with the use of fireworks to celebrate the New Year and Independence Day. These fireworks tend to appear before the holidays and are used even after the holidays have passed. While other municipalities in the area may allow "safe and sane" fireworks and their sales within city limits, Cerritos does not. In fact, Cerritos Sheriff's deputies have been instructed to issue citations where appropriate in

the event they encounter individuals using any type of fireworks. Please help us maintain the safety of the community and avoid the use of fireworks within the City limits.

Residents are invited to enjoy an Independence Day celebration on Thursday, July 4 starting at 4 p.m. at the Cerritos Civic Center. The festivities will culminate in a free aerial fireworks show at 9 p.m. as part of the City's 40th Annual Let Freedom Ring Celebration.

Attend National Night Out in August

On Thursday, August 8, the Cerritos Sheriff's Station and the City of Cerritos will observe the "30th National Night Out." This year, in conjunction with the Concert in

the Park series, members from the Sheriff's Department will present crime prevention, safety, disaster preparedness and homeland security information at Heritage Park (18600 Bloomfield Avenue) in Cerritos from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. "Operation Kid Print" will be available for parents who would like to maintain a fingerprint card on their children.

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.