

### Before the earth starts to move

Last month's newsletter emphasized how to protect yourself when you feel the ground start shaking under your feet. As mentioned, quickly move away from windows, shelves and cabinets with heavy objects, and large chandeliers and ceiling lights. Without hesitation get under a sturdy desk or table, or at least get down near an interior wall until the shaking stops. But as important as it is to react quickly, how well you and your family survive will largely depend upon how well you prepared for the inevitable "big one."

Although taking the initiative to engage in personal earthquake planning can be a challenge, there are a few simple safety tips worth considering.

**Have a plan and discuss it.** Every family member should know where the safe spots are in each room, such as under sturdy desks and tables, and next to interior walls where you will be safe from falling objects or broken windows.

If away from home and telephones stop working, identify a prearranged location where family members can meet. If possible, also have an out-of-state contact who family members can call and leave a message (often local calls can't get through, but long distance calls will).

**Secure** heavy televisions to counters and top-heavy furniture to walls (find out how at Lowe's, Home Depot or on the Internet). Use museum putty to secure knickknacks, use closed hooks on hanging plants and place only soft or light items on shelves near beds.

**Show** everyone where the shut-offs for water, gas and electricity are located and teach them how they operate. Secure water heaters with at least two metal straps and use flexible gas lines where attached to appliances.

**Always** have working flashlights handy and an ABC-type fire extinguisher available. Make sure family members know where they are located and how to operate them.

**Supplies** such as water and food must last for at least three days (seven recommended). First aid items should be readily available and should take into account any special needs your family members may have. Other things to think about are the needs of senior family members, children, any disabilities, medications and pets.

**School and daycare** center policies should be checked so you will know the response to an emergency, including notification procedures and how and where children will be released to parents.

There are many more suggestions and strategies to help make you and your family safer in the event of an emergency. For more information on earthquake preparedness, check these websites: [espfocus.org](http://espfocus.org); [ready.gov](http://ready.gov); [fire.lacounty.gov](http://fire.lacounty.gov); [redcross.org](http://redcross.org); and [earthquakecountry.org](http://earthquakecountry.org). Emergency supplies and equipment can be found on various websites, including [sosproducts.com](http://sosproducts.com).

### Monthly Crime Summary: April 2014

There were 60 Part I felony crimes reported in April, which is about a 19 percent decrease from the 74 in March. The following is a summary of the monthly Part I totals by category: five robberies (same as in March); three aggravated assaults (also the same number as March); 13 residential burglaries; seven commercial/other structure burglaries; 15 grand thefts; 13 vehicle burglaries; and four stolen vehicles.

#### Robberies

The first robbery was a carjacking on April 9 at approximately 12:30 p.m. The 22-year-old suspect's vehicle collided with another car in the intersection of 166th Street and Bloomfield Avenue. He fled the scene on foot, but as he ran through a nearby parking lot he confronted a woman sitting in her car and stole her car at knifepoint. He was spotted by responding deputies about a mile away and taken into custody.

The second robbery occurred at about 1 p.m. on April 11 and involved a woman who was waiting for the bus in the 17400 block of Bloomfield Avenue. She was accosted by a man in his early 20s who grabbed her purse and escaped by running south on Bloomfield Avenue.

The third robbery also occurred on April 11 at approximately 5 p.m. and took place at the Walmart in the Cerritos Towne Center. The 25-year-old suspect stole several small items and when confronted by loss prevention officers a fight ensued. The suspect managed to escape, but was captured in the parking lot by responding deputies. (Sheriff's deputies average about three-minute response times to emergency calls, which is why two of these robbery suspects went to jail for their crimes.)

On April 23 at about 3:25 p.m., two young men accosted a male juvenile in the east parking lot of Cerritos High School near 183rd

Street and forcibly removed a cell phone he was holding in his pants pocket. At about midnight the same day, two suspects committed a similar strong-arm robbery in the parking lot of a restaurant on Norwalk Boulevard near Artesia Boulevard. The victim, an employee of the restaurant, had walked out to his car to retrieve a flashlight when the suspects approached and pushed him to the ground, kicked him and took his wallet, cell phone and a small amount of cash.

#### Aggravated Assaults

There were three felony assaults reported in April. One involved a dispute between a boyfriend and his girlfriend, one was a threat by a homeless person with scissors and one involved a restaurant employee sitting in his car who was confronted by a disgruntled customer brandishing a handgun. Fortunately, no one was

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## MONTHLY CRIME SUMMARY: April 2014

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injured in any of these incidents, and in the last assault the suspect was arrested by responding deputies.

### Residential Burglaries

The Sheriff's burglary suppression team continues its excellent work in reducing residential burglaries in Cerritos. There were 13 reported in April at the following locations:

- 17600 block Mapes Ave (April 1)
- 17600 block Alora Ave (April 1)
- 18800 block De Voss Ave (April 7-11)
- 17300 block Grayland Ave (April 18)
- 17300 block Napa Circle (April 19)
- 17500 block Alora Ave (April 23)
- 17200 block Grayland Ave (April 23)
- 12900 block Lucas Lane (April 24)
- 19900 block Meadows Court (April 25-26, attempted)
- 16800 block Harvest Ave (April 27, attempted)
- 12200 block Eckleson Place (April 28)
- 12500 Yosemite Ave (April 29)

With the exception of the attempted burglary on Meadows Court and the Napa Circle burglary, which was at a home being fumigated, all of April's residential burglaries occurred during the daytime. In most cases the residences were ransacked, indicating that the suspects were experienced thieves and the burglaries possibly the work of gang crews. Entry was usually through rear windows, sliders or side garage doors.

Three were particularly noteworthy. On Grayland the suspects were seen jumping over a side gate by a neighbor who immediately called the Sheriff's and the suspects were quickly apprehended by responding deputies (remember, See Something, Say Something, protect your neighborhood). Two suspects were arrested burglarizing a home being fumigated on Napa Circle. Deputies responded at about 1 a.m. to an alarm that had been installed earlier by the burglary suppression team. On Yosemite Avenue a resident heard someone banging on her front door. She

didn't recognize the person and said nothing. He left, but returned in a few minutes and kicked the front door open. Once inside he saw the resident and quickly ran away. This incident is a good reminder of why it is usually wise to make your presence known to strangers at your front door. Turn up the volume on a television or radio, or simply state that "we can't come to the door right now." Burglars are looking for quiet homes that are empty. They will leave the area if they think someone is watching.

### Commercial/Other Structure Burglaries

There were seven commercial/other structure burglaries in April scattered throughout the City. Lockers were entered at the Cerritos Self Storage facility on Valley View Avenue and also at the 605 storage facility on Piuma Avenue. The Korea Daily News on Arbor Place lost scrap metal from a storage shed. Towards the end of the month two restaurants in the 11300 block of South Street had front windows shattered during overnight hours and one lost a cash register and the other a cash drawer.

### Grand Thefts

There were 15 reports of grand theft in April, six of which were in residential areas. A home up for sale on Palm Place lost approximately \$30,000 in jewelry. As with homes being fumigated, it is never wise to leave anything of value in your residence when it is unlocked and open to strangers. Catalytic converters were taken from a couple of Toyotas on Monica Circle and Estella Avenue. Cell phones were targeted by several thieves this month. A young girl had her cell phone snatched while she was sitting near Artesia Boulevard and Studebaker Road after school. Another young girl had her phone grabbed while she was walking on 183rd Street near Gridley Road. Both thefts occurred near Gahr High School on April 4. Victoria's Secret lost about \$1,700 in merchandise to a shoplifter on April 11, and the Verizon and AT&T stores at the Cerritos Towne Center (and the one on South Street) had suspects grab cell phones and flee. An arrest was made in the Cerritos Towne Center AT&T theft (quick response by deputies, again).

### Vehicle Burglaries

Four of the 13 vehicle burglaries reported in April occurred in residential areas and the rest in public lots. In almost all of the burglaries a window was shattered. The losses varied and included five purses and one iPod. No laptops or cameras were stolen. Two of the burglaries occurred in the 183rd Street lot at Cerritos High School and both involved parents attending an event on campus who decided to stash their purses under rear SUV seats. It is difficult to know how thieves target purses in cars, but it's rare when anyone is arrested for this crime, so it is a good habit to never leave valuables inside of your car if you have a choice.

### Vehicle Thefts

Vehicle thefts, which have averaged about 14 per month through March, saw a huge decline in April with only four reports received. Two Hondas, a common target of car thieves, were stolen. A Civic was taken from the Los Cerritos Center and an Accord from a home on Cantrece Street. Both vehicles were recovered, the Civic in Long Beach and the Accord in Norwalk. A Nissan pickup truck was stolen from a home on Judy Way, a GMC Yukon from the Los Cerritos Center and a Chevy pickup from a lot on 183rd Street across from the mall.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS

If you see something,  
say something.

(562) 860-0044



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



(562) 916-1266  
Cerritos Community Safety Division

(562) 860-0044  
Cerritos Sheriff's Station

CERRITOS SHERIFF'S STATION  
COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTER

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