



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

May 2012

This newsletter is a publication by the South Pasadena Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit. Officer Richard Lee
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Jewelry Theft

While residential burglaries continue in the San Gabriel Valley, jewelry and cash are still the most popular items stolen. Because these items are small, they are easily concealable in pockets.

Jewelry can be easily sold for cash, especially the current high price paid for an ounce of gold.

Sadly, many pieces of jewelry that have been stolen in residential burglaries have been family heirlooms that are impossible to replace.

Often times, the victim provides vague descriptions of the stolen jewelry, e.g., a gold ring or gold necklace. This vague description makes recovery difficult.

Since, jewelry does not have serial numbers and it is almost impossible to engrave any markings, jewelry should be photographed with notations of any special marks, distinguishing features or inscriptions. A photo of you wearing the jewelry is also recommended to show ownership.

Receipts, or an annual appraisal should be placed in a safety deposit box, along with a photograph of the jewelry.

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The best prevention is not to keep any jewelry in plain view on your dresser, desk, etc. Jewelry not daily worn should be securely locked up. Expensive jewelry, like family heirlooms, should be locked in a safety deposit box.

Thefts From Unlocked Vehicles

We continue to see many thefts from unlocked vehicles. Losses have ranged from laptop computers, I-pads to sunglasses and music CDs.

Because a vehicle is left unlocked, and no forced entry is used to enter the vehicle, a theft from an unlocked vehicle is **NOT** considered an auto burglary.

The difference is how the crime is classified. A burglary is a felony, while a theft from an unlocked vehicle may be considered only a misdemeanor (a misdemeanor may not entail any jail time). Remember, to always lock your car!

The Crime Prevention Unit offers these **FREE** services

- Engravers to mark your property "Community Opportunity for Property Security (COPS) Program."
- Home Inspection Surveys.
- Email alerts of crime bulletins and weekly crime summary.

If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch Group or receive future copies of this newsletter, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit.



Serial Numbers

Recently, we have seen a number of small electronic items (i.e., i-pads, i-pods, etc.) stolen. Some were left behind accidentally by the victim. Unfortunately, the victims did not record the serial number of their property.

While there is nothing like using the latest electronic device, many people often overlook the importance of recording the product's serial number.

Serial numbers are like a license plate for a product. Once entered into a nationwide police computer as a lost, or stolen property, should it be recovered, it can be returned to the owner.

Remember to record the serial numbers of your items and store it in a safe place. You may also consider taking a photograph of the item as well.

Crime Statistic Map

To know where crime is occurring in South Pasadena, look at the monthly Crime Statistic Map on the back of this page.

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