

West Los Angeles Basic Car Newsletter

8A1

Good Afternoon,

Basic Car 8A1

We are now in the midst of the Summer months. As usual, we are seeing an increase in foot traffic around the beach and shopping areas of the Palisades. Most of the crimes we are seeing are crimes of opportunity. Please do not leave valuables inside your vehicle. If you are out and about, don't turn your back on your valuables. If someone wants to grab something they will do it when your distracted. The few burglaries we have are pretty much the same MO (modus operandi), our suspects are gaining entry through the sides or rear of the residence. Keep your eyes open for suspicious vehicles and people in the neighborhood. It may not warrant a call to the Police but notify your neighbors to be visible to let everyone know we are watching. There is a lot of information going out through social media apps and the typical telephone game. Please keep in mind, a lot of information can be construed or misleading when a person's perspective is interjected. Please reach out to me if you have specific questions or concerns. Thank you to the Palisades Community for all the support.

- **Security Window Film:** There are many different brands and Companies that make these shatter proof window film. I recommend looking into what type works for your home. This is just another added measure to make it harder for our criminals to get to our stuff. When someone smashes a window its usually just one hit. The film makes it harder to smash and the person must hit the glass several times creating more noise (which they do not want).
- **MyLA311** app: If you have not done so already. I highly recommend downloading this app. You can generate a multitude of city services ranging from street services, Department of sanitation and Department of Transportation. Once a service request has been made you receive notifications of the status and outcome of the request.
- When calling 911 or the non-emergency line (877-275-5273), please be patient and know your location and a detailed description of the incident you are calling about. Our LAPD Dispatchers are very good at determining the nature of response.
- I encourage everyone to get a security system that will give you instant notification if someone is on your property. This helps us (LAPD), if you can see that someone is in your house and can give a good description of the suspects. It will bump our response up to a priority call instead of a non-priority (alarm only).
- If you have security cameras on your property, it is helpful for an investigation to have one or more cameras angled towards the street or sidewalk. Investigators can back track areas where people are seen coming from based on video footage. Hopefully with other cameras showing vehicles or other suspects, investigators can obtain valuable information.
- **Please continue to secure (lock) your house and vehicles and do not leave valuables in your vehicle.** Let's make it harder for these criminals to get our stuff.

- Remember to be aware of your surroundings. We can deter most crimes when we acknowledge the people around us. Most criminals do not want to be noticed.

You can also check crimemapping.com for daily information of crime in the area.

8A13

- The areas of concern are going to be our Burglaries, always keep your exterior windows and doors secured when you're not at home. It is helpful to have motioned sensor exterior lights.
- Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle, lock it – Hide it – Keep it. We are still seeing vehicles with valuables laying in the backseat or other items that would entice our criminal element to break into your vehicle.
- If you are tandem parking do not leave your vehicle keys in the car. We have had a few vehicles taken due to the keys (key fob) being left in the car.

8A29

- Auto related crimes are still our hot topic, do not leave valuables in your car. Most BFMV suspects will walk around the neighborhood or parking structure looking for something to steal.
- If you are visiting the village area, be mindful of your surroundings. We have had a couple brandishing's of a weapon in the area, in the past.
- Be aware of your surroundings, due to numerous follow home Robberies in Los Angeles.
- Make sure you are securing your homes. Get an alarm, motion lights, cameras, a doorbell camera, lock all of your doors and windows, forward your mail, and make sure your neighborhoods that your trust, know when you are out of town.
- Neighborhood Watches are a great burglary deterrent. Our nation is built on the strength of our citizens. Every day we encounter situations calling upon us to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement. Not only does neighborhood watch allow citizens to help in the fight against crime, it is also an opportunity for communities to bond through service.

8A35

- Please use caution when out walking and be mindful of your surroundings, especially during PM hours. Keep your cell phone available in case you have to make a call for service or take video and or photos.
- As a reminder Grand Theft Auto is still up in the City as a whole. Please remember to keep valuables out of plain sight and to properly secure your vehicles. This includes not leaving your Key Fobs inside the center console and/or glove compartment.
- We are also noticing an increase in plain Theft activity. These Thefts range from leaving property unattended for a few seconds; such as leaving a purse on a shopping cart and or leaving your laptop on a table while at a coffee shop. We are also seeing this Theft activity with Bicycles that aren't properly secured. Thank you for all your assistance and partnership. Stay safe!

8A53

DRIVING

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

SHOPPING

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your California Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.

- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

8A59

Grand Theft Auto is still one of the biggest crime trends we have. The vehicles most taken are Kia's and Hyundai, which are taken for the catalytic convertor precious metal value. We have also seen many work trucks and vans taken for the equipment value contained inside. Some of the vehicle taken were parked in tandem in apartment complexes and single-family driveways which had keys left inside. The reason was so one person could move the car without having to return a key to the roommate or friend. Unfortunately, the bad guys also figured this out and have capitalized on this.

Please do not leave your car running, and do not leave the key inside of your vehicle, even if you are "just running in." You never know who is watching and who will steal your vehicle if given the opportunity.

It is very important to safeguard your home and or apartment complex against these suspects by installing cameras, making sure the lighting is working (suspects generally don't like well-lit areas), neighbors being vigilant and communicating with each other and most of all communicating with me when a suspicious person is seen in the area. Sometimes a suspect hasn't committed a crime but might be related to another crime.

Always try to walk in groups, do not have your face buried in your cell phone, and pay attention to your surroundings. If you notice someone following you immediately call 911 or knock on someone's door and ask them to call 911. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry as this can bring unwanted attention to yourself. If you are confronted by a robbery suspect give them your property as nothing is worth endangering your personal safety. Try to stay calm and observe as much as you can so that you can give the best possible description to the police. The suspect(s) height, weight, age, ethnicity, clothing description, and direction of travel are all crucial pieces of information. If the suspect(s) are in a vehicle, try to take note of the color, make and model of the vehicle. All this information is vital for us to be able to apprehend the suspects.

If you notice someone following you immediately call 911.

Burglaries are increasing there are a few preventive measures that you can take when you are not at home. Leave lights on, leave a television on, and ask a trusted neighbor to pick up mail and packages for you. Surprisingly, a lot of burglars enter homes through unlocked doors, so please remember to check your doors and windows. As always, if you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood please report it without delay.

Be aware of package theft. If you place an order online, have your package shipped to a location where someone would be able to receive it. "DO NOT LEAVE A PACKAGE ON YOUR PORCH OR FRONT DOOR STEP" If you live in an apartment complex try to have the delivery

service drop the package at your door or at a trusted neighbor's residence so they can pick it up for you. These suspects will follow delivery trucks (FedEx, Amazon, UPS, etc.) and wait for the packages to be delivered. They sometimes will stroll through your neighborhood (on foot or in a vehicle) and walk up to your property to take your packages. If you see suspicious activity, please notify us. Sometimes a community member will catch suspects in the act, but do not detain them, for your own safety. I am asking that you call and make a report, so it can be documented with a good description and last known location of the suspect in case the suspect is seen in the area or another area committing crimes. The detectives will follow-up and put the evidence together to build a stronger case for prosecution.

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

8A95

- I would suggest that deliveries should only be made when you are home. If you cannot make it home have packages delivered to the amazon lockers in the supermarket or local 7/11.
- Please take precautions if you are traveling. Stop your mail. Set your lights on a timer, get motion detector lights, let your neighbors you trust know, and install a video camera doorbell. Also ask your SLO for a vacation check when going out of town.
- To decrease Grand Theft Auto and Burglary from Motor Vehicles, when parking your vehicle please remove all items in plain sight. I would even go as far as to leave my ash tray open, so the suspects see that there is nothing of value in the car.
- Take your keys out of your vehicle and keep your key Fob away from your vehicle
- Install cameras on your property, in order to identify a suspect or to catch a license plate of a suspect's vehicle.

Additional for Basic Cars

Due to an increase in violent street robberies, West Los Angeles Division has become aware of an ongoing crime trend of follow-home robberies. Suspects have been locating victims in Los Angeles, following them, and then committing the robberies as the victim arrives home or at their business.

Victims have been followed from such places like Melrose Avenue, the Jewelry District of Los Angeles, nightclubs, and high-end restaurants in Los Angeles. The target of these robberies has been expensive jewelry, including watches and necklaces, as well as expensive purses. Victims have also been targeted based on the type of vehicle they are driving.

These crimes have occurred throughout the City of Los Angeles as well as neighboring cities. Different suspects have been identified and arrested for these types of crimes.

The following are recommendations for community members:

1. Be aware of one's surroundings for anything unusual or out of the ordinary before exiting your car, walking out of a restaurant, stores, malls, or clubs.
2. Be cautious of displaying high value property in public such as: purses, watches, and jewelry.

3. Record and report suspicious activity to the police (write down suspicious suspect/vehicle descriptions).
4. If you are driving and believe you are being followed, dial 911. If possible, drive to the nearest police station. If you're on foot with no cellphone use the red call box located on the wall near the entrance of the West Los Angeles Police Station.
5. If you are being robbed, do not resist the robbery suspects; cooperate and comply with their demands. Be a good witness.
6. After a robbery, immediately call the police department by dialing 911. Immediately write down everything you can remember about the crime, suspects and suspect vehicle.
7. Do not chase or follow the robbery suspect out of your place of business or home. Leave the job of catching the suspects to the police.
8. Please direct encampment clean-up directly to your Council District through myLA311.
9. Enforcement related to RV violations and impounds can be directed the Department of Transportation (DOT) through myLA311.

Please call our West Los Angeles Senior Lead Office for any questions, concerns, or ideas (310) 444-0735.