

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake with its epicenter in the San Fernando Valley suburb of Northridge had nearly crushed Los Angeles at 4:31 a.m. on January 17, 1994. Fifty-seven people died that morning and in the days that followed from earthquake-related injuries. Thousands were injured; thousands more found themselves suddenly homeless. Gas, water, and electricity were cut from many areas throughout the City, with several areas not resuming service for days and, in some cases, weeks.



Newton Area opened its doors at a new police station in 1997.



Newton Station (↑)



(←) Northridge Earthquake Photos



On the morning of February 28, 1997, two heavily armed men wearing body armor burst into a Bank of America branch, took a little more than \$300,000 and fired their way out. They had full-automatic rifles filled with armor-piercing bullets. By chance, two LAPD officers drove by the bank and spotted them. The gun battle that ensued between the bank robbers and LAPD officers was seen and heard around the world, as it was broadcast live on television. Miraculously, of the 12 police officers and eight civilian bystanders who were injured, some by armor-piercing AK-47 rounds, none were killed. By the time it was over, the two robbers were dead. The officers were outgunned that day. The North Hollywood Shootout changed how officers were armed in Los Angeles and beyond. (↑)



In collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Department implemented the Police Academy Magnet School in three Los Angeles high schools in 1995.



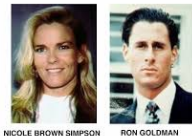
77th Station

77th Street Area opened its doors at a new police station in 1997. The station also houses Operations-South Bureau, 77th Street Jail and the "Randy Champe and Gary Howe Memorial Heliport."

## 1994

Nicole Brown Simpson, the wife of football star and actor O.J. Simpson, and friend Ronald Goldman were brutally murdered on June 12, 1994. Simpson was charged with the double murder, but did not turn himself in. On June 17, 1994, he reappears with long-time friend Al Cowlings, in a white Ford Bronco, leading a widely televised slow-motion police chase along freeways in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Simpson was finally arrested without incident after arriving at his Brentwood home.

The Victims



O.J. Simpson Case Pictures (↑)

In 1995, during O.J. Simpson murder trial, taped interviews with LAPD detective Mark Fuhrman are publicly aired to impeach the detective's testimony that he had never used racist language. After an 11-month highly publicized trial, the jury finds O.J. Simpson not guilty of the double murder of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.



North Hollywood Station

North Hollywood Area opened its doors at a new police station on May 11, 1997.

In 1995, the LAPD dedicated the Recruit Training Center in Westchester to train recruits.



Ahmanson Recruit Training Center



At the forefront of the New LAPD's philosophy of law enforcement in 1997 was FASTRAC: Focus, Accountability, Strategy, Teamwork, Response, and Coordination. This comprehensive program was geared toward building effective performance and accountability into all LAPD systems.

Residents of Los Angeles passed Charter Amendment 3, in April 1995, which officially created the position of Inspector General.

