

DEVONSHIRE AREA HISTORY

In 1915, The San Fernando Valley was annexed by the City of Los Angeles and by 1923 LAPD created the Valley Division. As the City grew, geographical divisions were created that would split the responsibility of Valley Division into West Valley, Foothill, Van Nuys, and North Hollywood Division.

The population of the northwest San Fernando Valley was growing at rapid pace by the 1960s, necessitating the need for expanding the force in a new division. In 1968, Devonshire became the 17th geographical patrol area in the Los Angeles Police Department, officially opening in the Granada Village Shopping Center at the northwest corner of Chatsworth Street and Zelzah Ave on November 2, 1968. In 1973 Devonshire Area opened its permanent and current location at 10250 Etiwanda Ave. The nearest cross street is Devonshire Street.

Devonshire Division is comprised of the entire communities of Granada Hills, Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, most of Northridge, and parts of North Hills and Winnetka. Most notable of incidents affecting Devonshire Area was the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, which severely damaged properties and claimed the lives of 57 people, including Officer Clarence Dean, who was riding his motorcycle into the City to assist with rescue efforts when he tragically fell to his death on the collapsed 5 Freeway interchange just above Devonshire Division's boundaries.

On August 10th, 1999, the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Granada Hills came under attack by a heavily armed suspect, firing a possible "Uzi" type weapon at women and children in the center. A total of three children, one teenager, and an adult were wounded. LAPD Officers responded and led the victims to safety as they searched the area for the suspect, who was later identified as Buford Furrow. After fleeing the center, Furrow gunned down a postal worker in Chatsworth. Furrow fled once more and later turned himself in to FBI agents in Las Vegas. The motive was determined to be connected to Neo-Nazi ideologies.

On September 12th, 2008, at about 4:22 PM, a Union Pacific Freight Train and Metrolink commuter train carrying 225 people collided head-on in Chatsworth, killing 25 people, including LAPD Officer Spree Desha.

The Davis Training Facility, named after former Chief of Police Edward Davis, is located in Devonshire Area. The facility is a state-of-the-art- police training facility which hosts training in emergency vehicle operations, tactical, and firearms training.