

WEST LOS ANGELES HISTORY

West Los Angeles Station was acquired through the annexation of the City of Sawtelle on August 31st, 1917. Later, on October 15, 1921, the annexation was cancelled by order of the Supreme Court and the station was move to the nearby Westgate. Once again, on July 13th, 1922, Sawtelle was re-annexed into the City of Los Angeles and West Los Angeles Division came to be.

The original police station was located at 1653 Purdue Avenue. In 1974, West Los Angeles Station reopened its doors at its current location at 1663 Butler Avenue.

Densely populated with suburbs and residential neighborhoods, West Los Angeles Division is most known for the murder of Nicole Brown Simpson and friend Ronald Goldman on June 12th, 1994. Orenthal James "O.J." Simpson, the husband of Nicole Brown Simpson was subsequently arrested and tried for the murder of both victims. In the 1995 trial, LAPD Detective Mark Fuhrman's testimony was impeached after it was discovered that the detective lied about having never used racist language. After the 11-month highly publicized trial, the jury found Simpson not guilty of the murder of both victims.

In 1997, Ennis Cosby, the son of actor Bill Cosby was shot and killed in an attempted carjacking near the 405 Freeway in the Bel Air area. The killer, Mikhail Markhasev was apprehended and convicted for the murder of Ennis Cosby.

Additional notable incidents in West Los Angeles Area are the Bel Air fire of 1961, which destroyed about 500 structures and over 15,810 acres of brush, the Skirball Fire of 2017, and the Getty Fire of 2019.

West Los Angeles Division is also host to numerous Federal buildings and foreign consulates. Because of this, officers from all over the city are tasked with assisting West Los Angeles Division and its community during events involving large protests. While the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) has its own police department, officers of West Los Angeles Area also patrol the vicinity of the campus and respond to calls for service when the assistance of the LAPD is necessary.