



VAN NUYS SENIOR LEAD OFFICERS' NEWS

Senior Lead Officers Unit
6240 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401

July 2026

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, please call your Senior Lead Officer at the numbers listed below for further details.

Help Us PREVENT TERRORISM - "See Something, Report to iWATCH"

iWatch is a community program and partnership between the public and Los Angeles Police Department. The program educates the community regarding possible acts of terrorism by teaching them about behaviors and activities that appear unusual and/or seem to be out of the ordinary, makes them aware of important places to watch, and informs them on key details that should be included as part of the reporting process.

There are three platforms for public reporting:

1. iWATCH mobile application
2. Online through LAPDonline.org or iWATCHLA.org
3. 1-877-A-THREAT (1-877-284-7328)

For crimes in progress and medical emergencies dial: 911

To report any suspicious activity or person(s), call the Los Angeles Police Department Non-Emergency phone number at 877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273).

Are you interested in knowing about spontaneous police activity in your neighborhood? If so, you may want to try the "Citizen app." Get real-time safety alerts and live videos of incidents happening near you.

Senior Lead Officer Update

Basic Car 9A5

Senior Lead Officer Brian Franco

Cell Phone: 818-731-2556

Email Address: 39273@lapd.online

Hello, Van Nuys community. As we celebrate Independence Day with family, friends, and neighbors, the Van Nuys Community Police Station encourages everyone to make safety a priority. The Fourth of July is a time to enjoy our nation's traditions, but it is also important to remain mindful of the potential dangers associated with fireworks, alcohol consumption, and the impact holiday celebrations can have on our pets and community.

Fireworks are a common part of holiday celebrations; however, many fireworks are illegal within the City of Los Angeles and pose significant risks to people, property, and public safety. Illegal fireworks can cause serious injuries, start fires, and place first responders at risk. Residents are reminded that the possession, sale, transportation, or use of illegal fireworks may result in enforcement action, including citations and confiscation. Community members are encouraged to attend professional fireworks displays and help prevent fires by removing dry vegetation around their homes and remaining vigilant throughout the holiday weekend. Pet owners should also take extra precautions during Fourth of July celebrations. The loud noises and bright flashes associated with fireworks can cause fear and anxiety in animals, often leading pets to flee from their homes. To keep pets safe, residents are encouraged to keep animals indoors, ensure identification tags and microchip information are current, and create a quiet, secure environment where pets can feel comfortable. Taking these simple steps can help reduce stress for pets and prevent them from becoming lost during the holiday.

For those planning to consume alcohol, responsible decision-making is essential. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs places everyone on the road at risk and can lead to tragic consequences. Residents are encouraged to plan ahead by designating a sober driver, utilizing rideshare services, public transportation, or arranging alternative transportation before celebrations begin. Hosts are also encouraged to monitor guests, offer non-alcoholic beverage options, and assist anyone who may need a safe ride home.

The Van Nuys Community Police Station appreciates the partnership and support of our residents in helping keep our neighborhoods safe. By celebrating responsibly, respecting local laws, and looking out for one another, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable Independence Day for everyone. We wish you and your family a happy, safe, and memorable Fourth of July.

Basic Car 9A19

VACANT

Basic Car 9A23

Officer Chase Lambert

Cell Phone: (818) 731-2557

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Hello everyone,

I hope this finds everyone well and a happy and safe 4th of July! I wanted to speak regarding theft from motor vehicles. Some very easy and simple safety tips for the community to take as much caution as possible. Never leave your vehicle unattended while running or at idle even just for a minute. It is important to not leave any valuables visible inside the cab of your vehicle. Some of the common items include backpacks, laptops/

iPads, lose change or US currency visible inside of your vehicle. Secure all important paperwork inside of your vehicle. Most vehicles are equipped with a locking glove box which secure registration. Do not keep other documents such as vehicle titles or items with personal information inside of your vehicle. Thieves may use this opportunity to use your information to impersonate you to open an account or sell your vehicle. Utilize well-lit areas around your residence and equip cameras if the area allows. If your residence allows park your vehicle inside of a locking garage to assist in the most security possible. I hope these tips are helpful and informative to all members of the community.

Basic Car 9A37

Senior Lead Officer Kristan Delatori

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All Fireworks Are Dangerous! All Fireworks Are Illegal In Los Angles. (LAMC 57.5608.1.2)

Every year, fireworks bring joy to family and community celebrations, but they also introduce serious risks including devastating burns, eye injuries, and fires that cause millions of dollars in property loss. Violators can be held responsible for damages, as well as having to pay a fine and/or go to jail. Parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks.

Under California Health and Safety Code Fireworks Penalties, Section 12700, any person who violates any provision of the State Fireworks laws or Regulations is guilty of a misdemeanor. A misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not less than \$500, but not to exceed \$1,000 by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, or both.

Under California Health and Safety Code Fireworks Penalties, Section 12700(B), a person in possession of unaltered dangerous fireworks in violation of the State Fireworks Law is punishable as a misdemeanor or a public offense with fines ranging from \$500 to more than \$50,000, depending on the gross weight of unaltered dangerous fireworks in possession.

LAMC - 57.5608.1.2, makes it completely unlawful for any person to use, give, sell, or discharge any fireworks within the City of Los Angeles. Unlike some other parts of California, the City of Los Angeles has a strict **Zero-Tolerance** policy: even "Safe and Sane" fireworks are illegal.

To ensure a safe and festive holiday, we strongly encourage residents to leave the displays to the professionals by attending a public firework show conducted by State-licensed pyrotechnicians. For a listing of professional fireworks shows across Los Angeles County, please check the website at www.fire.lacounty.gov beginning on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

If you are interested in starting or joining a neighborhood watch group, please email me with your contact information. Thank you for your continued support of the Officers here at Van Nuys Division.

Basic Car 9A41

Senior Lead Officer Joel Gutierrez

Cell Phone: 818-731-2560

Email Address: 36816@lapd.online

Hello Basic Car, 9A41, I hope everyone has a safe and happy 4th of July! During this time of the year, the city calls for service for firework activity significantly increases. To help identify individuals responsible for such activity please call the non-emergency number 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

If you are home and someone knocks or rings your doorbell, do NOT ignore it. Would be burglars like to knock to determine if someone is home before attempting to break in. So, please make sure you verbally acknowledge the person WITHOUT opening the door. If you have not invited someone to your home, you should not open the door for them. Remember, Nextdoor.com, Twitter, and your SLO's City cell phone/email is **not for reporting crimes or for generating radio calls.**

For non-emergencies call 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273), and for emergencies and crimes in progress, dial 911. Please refrain from calling the front desk if you need officers to come out on a radio call. The front desk officers are here to take telephonic reports and answer questions, not to dispatch calls.

Also, for vacant or abandoned properties are a magnet for squatters, gang members, and transients who will take up residency at these locations. It is the responsibility of the current property owners to keep it maintained until it is renovated or demolished. To report such abandoned properties, call Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) at (888) LA4BUILD.

Basic Car 9A63

Senior Lead Officer Mariana Romo
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Greetings Sherman Oaks,

I have been receiving numerous e-bike safety concerns. School is out and summer is here to stay!

Electric bicycles, or e bikes, continue to grow in popularity, especially among youth. With increased speed and motorized power come added safety considerations. Let's remember these e-bike safety tips to have a wonderful and safe summer.

Why E Bike Safety Matters

Community partners such as trauma centers and law enforcement have identified rising concerns related to e-bike injuries, e-bike traffic collisions, unsafe riding behaviors, and confusion about local regulations.

Know the Three Classifications of E Bikes

- Class I: Bikes with a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph that must be pedaled to operate.
- Class II: Bikes with a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph that can be operated without pedaling by using a handlebar-mounted throttle.
- Class III: Bikes with a maximum assisted speed of 28 mph that must be pedaled to operate. Minimum age of 16 to ride.

Tips to Stay Safe on E-Bikes

- Wear a helmet. Always wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet, regardless of your age or the type of bike you're riding.
- Follow traffic laws. Obey all traffic rules and regulations. Stop at stop signs and obey traffic signals. E-bikes are subject to the same laws as traditional bicycles.
- Avoid distractions. Stay focused on the road and avoid using electronic devices while riding. Keep both hands on the handlebars.
- Be visible. Wear bright or reflective clothing and use bike lights at night.
- Watch for pedestrians. Be considerate of pedestrians, especially in shared-use paths. Slow down and give them the right of way when necessary.
- Practice before riding in traffic. Practice on roads with bike lanes or less traffic.

Interested in volunteering for the police station? For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Officer Jimenez from our Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online or call 818-374-5420. Program information, the application process, and current volunteer opportunities will be provided. All applicants are required to be fingerprinted as part of the LAPD background procedures.

Basic Car 9A89

Senior Lead Officer Michael Perez

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Greetings residents and business owners of Sherman Oaks! I would like to extend to you and your family a safe and happy Fourth of July Holiday.

Fireworks. As we get closer to July 4th, firework activity always increases during this time of year. Just as a reminder all fireworks are illegal in the city and county of Los Angeles. Fireworks are dangerous and cause numerous injuries this time of the year. To report firework activity, use the MyLA311 application on your smart phone or computer. Only dial 911 in the event of an emergency such as a fire or injury. Please visit the following websites for more information on how to celebrate the Fourth of July safely:

- MYSAFELA.ORG
- LAFD.ORG
- FIRE.LACOUNTY.GOV

Online Reporting. During several community meetings, community members have complained about long wait times when calling the non-emergency line. To avoid these wait times, you can report certain crimes online at LAPDOnline.org. The crimes that can be reported on line include:

- Harassing Phone Calls
- Lost Property
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Theft from Vehicle
- Minor Traffic Collisions
- Hit and Run
- Identify Theft
- Hate Incidents

You can also report the crime of Illegal Dumping, Vice and Narcotics tips from the website. Additionally, once a report is made and accepted, it will generate a Case Number which will be your reference number of your case. Every case is assigned to a specific Detective for investigating. To obtain information on what detective is assigned to your case please call, the Van Nuys Area Desk at 818-374-0040.

For all **traffic related complaints** please contact Valley Traffic Officer Daryl Blackhall at 36479@lapd.online. Please indicate the type of violations, location and time of day the violations are occurring.

Neighborhood Watch: A strong neighborhood watch group is vital for the safety and security of your neighborhood. If you would like to start or revise an existing neighborhood watch group, please feel free to contact me.