



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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## PREVENTING RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

- Criminals are often knocking on doors to see if anyone is home. When there is no answer, the criminal walks to the back of the residence and breaks in. If you are home, let the person know someone is home without opening the door.
- Most residential burglaries take place during daylight hours (weekdays).
- If you are home during the day, be aware of who is approaching your neighbor's home or unexpected visitors knocking on your door. If you answer, they may have suspicious reasons for being at your door (i.e. looking for someone who does not live there, asking for work or door-to-door soliciting).
- Always lock all doors and windows when you leave your home, even if you will only be gone for a few minutes.
- Don't allow mail, newspapers or flyers to build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them in regularly.
- Be a good neighbor. Contact the Downey Police Department at 562-861-0770 if you witness suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Call 911 if you observe a crime in progress.
- Take note of suspect descriptions such as gender, race, clothing, height, weight, hair and eye color, tattoos, etc.
- If possible, make note of license plates, vehicle descriptions, and direction of travel.
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. The Police Department can work with your neighborhood to improve security and help reduce risk of burglary. Neighbors can organize and collect contact information to keep each other informed. If you are an existing Neighborhood Watch member, hold quarterly meetings and discuss recent crime trend information. Call 562-904-2374 to schedule a meeting.



All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at  
<http://tr.im/4tgtx>

## DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241 • Business Line 562-861-0770  
 Neighborhood Watch • 562-904-2374 • [jpreda@downeyca.org](mailto:jpreda@downeyca.org)

## LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CRIME STOPPERS

The Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that prevents and reduces crime, by forming partnerships among the community, law enforcement and the media in order to offer anonymity and cash rewards to anyone providing information leading to an arrest. As a result, communities are safer for all who live or work in the region.

Crime Stoppers encourages community members to assist local law enforcement agencies in combating crime by overcoming the two key elements that inhibit community involvement: fear and apathy.

Crime Stoppers uses a three part approach to solving crimes. The first part of the program is to empower the community by providing a safe way to report criminal activity. Secondly, Crime Stoppers partners with all forms of media in the Los Angeles region to inform the community on how to anonymously report crimes. Law Enforcement is the final piece of the puzzle, they follow-up on tips from community members.

Daily operations are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and law enforcement liaisons committed to supporting LA Crime Stoppers from the LA County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department. The Crime Stoppers program is funded by private donations and fundraising events. NO TAX DOLLARS are involved. The reward money paid out by the program is obtained through fundraising and donations from concerned citizens and businesses.

Partner to prevent or report crime by contacting the Downey Police Department at 562-861-0770. Or if you wish to remain Anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.



**1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**

**Text TIPLA plus your tip to 274637 (CRIMES)**

**[www.LACrimeStoppers.org](http://www.LACrimeStoppers.org)**

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If you would like to have a question answered or topic discussed, please e-mail [jpreda@downeyca.org](mailto:jpreda@downeyca.org)

## CITY OF DOWNEY DIRECTORY

### Downey City Hall

562-904-7246

### Police Department

562-861-0771

Dispatch - 562-861-0770

### Neighborhood Watch

562-904-2374

### Fire Department

562-904-7345

### Code Enforcement

562-904-2392

### Graffiti Removal Hotline

562-923-4484

### Emergency Preparedness

562-904-7347

### Business Watch

562-923-2191

### Gangs Out of Downey

562-904-3514

### Shopping Carts

800-252-4613

### Animal Control

562-803-3301

## IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION

Identity thieves steal your personal information to commit fraud. As a result, your credit status may be damaged and it will cost you time and money to correct the situation. To reduce your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft, follow the tips below:

- Shred or destroy bills, bank and credit card statements, and credit card applications received in the mail.
- Keep your social security card in a safe and secure place. Do not carry it in your wallet. Only give out your SSN when absolutely necessary. (I.e.: tax reasons, credit or verified employment.)
- Never reveal personal identifying information, such as your social security number or financial information over the phone or internet.
- Do not write your PIN number on ATM or credit cards.
- Make a list that includes all credit card numbers and contact information for financial institutions in case your wallet is lost or stolen.
- Know your billing cycles and contact creditors when bills fail to show up. Review bank and credit card statements carefully.
- Create passwords that consist of numbers and letters to make them more difficult to be compromised. Commit all passwords to memory. Never write them down or carry them with you.
- Collect mail promptly. Ask the post office to put your mail on hold when you are away from home for more than a day or two.
- Immediately call the fraud units of the three credit reporting companies – Experian, Equifax, and Trans Union to report the theft of your credit cards or numbers. Ask that a fraud alert be placed on your account. Periodically review your credit report and check for any fraudulent activity.
- For more information regarding Identity Theft, please visit the Federal Trade Commission web-site at <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>.