



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4

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Fume Alert System Purchased by Downey Police Department

Downey Police Burglary detectives have seen a trend in burglaries occurring at homes that are tented for fumigation. To help combat these types of crimes, the Downey Police Department has purchased a Fume Alert Kit.



This kit is a portable alarm system that is installed in the home prior to being tented. It monitors the home during fumigation to prevent and deter intruders from burglarizing the home. When activated, the system will alert the Police Department. Often times, homeowners do not know that their home has been burglarized until after the fumigation tents are removed. This system will be beneficial to Downey residents because Police will be notified if someone enters their home while it is tented.

The system can be reserved by residents only for the time their house is being tented. Arrangements can be made by contacting Detective Jerry Price at (562) 904-2359 or jprice@downeyca.org

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/k28hxqy>

DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Neighborhood Watch • (562) 904-2374 • jpreda@downeyca.org



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IRS Completes the “Dirty Dozen” Tax Scams of 2015

The Internal Revenue Service wrapped up the 2015 “Dirty Dozen” list of tax scams warning taxpayers about aggressive telephone scams during the early weeks of the year’s filing season. The IRS has urged taxpayers to not give money, personal or financial information over the phone or through emails to individuals claiming to be from the IRS. Here is a list of the most common scams:

Dirty Dozen:

- 1. Phone Scams:** Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents. Callers often threaten police arrest as intimidation in exchange for personal information.
- 2. Phishing:** Fake emails and websites looking to steal personal information. The IRS will not send you an email, bill or refund over email.
- 3. Identity Theft:** IRS continues to pursue the criminals that file fraudulent returns using someone else’s Social Security number.
- 4. Return Preparer Fraud:** Be on the look out for unscrupulous tax return preparers. They use your personal information to file fraudulent returns.
- 5. Offshore Tax Avoidance:** Successful enforcement actions against offshore tax cheats show it’s bad to hide money overseas. Taxpayers are best served by getting their taxes and filing requirements in order.
- 6. Inflated Return Claims:** Be on the lookout for anyone promising inflated refunds that are too good to be true.
- 7. Fake Charities:** Be on guard against groups who impersonate charities. Ask for their Federal Tax ID number.
- 8. Hiding Income with Fake Documents:** The suggestion of falsifying documents to reduce tax bills or inflate tax returns is a huge red flag. You are responsible for what is on your tax return despite who prepares it.
- 9. Abusive Tax Shelters:** The majority of taxpayers pay their share of taxes, and everyone should be on the lookout for people peddling tax shelters that sound too good to be true.
- 10. Falsifying Income to Claim Credits:** Avoid inventing income to claim tax credits.
- 11. Excessive Claims for Fuel Tax Credits:** Avoid improper claims for fuel tax credits.
- 12. Frivolous Tax Arguments:** Avoid using frivolous tax arguments to avoid paying taxes.

For more information please visit: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Completes-the-Dirty-Dozen-Tax-Scams-for-2015>

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

2ND ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING



On February 25th, 2015, the Downey Police Department held a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain meeting at the Barbara J. Riley Center. The meeting was a great opportunity to acknowledge block captains for the hard work they put in every year. Thank you for all you do!

There were nearly 100 people in attendance. Mayor Pro-Tem Alex Saab and Councilmember Sean Ashton spoke to the group and briefly discussed the importance of Neighborhood Watch. Ed Norris, Deputy Director of Public Works, addressed the group regarding the process for installing speed bumps. In addition, Downey Police Detectives Price and Galindo presented tips for burglary prevention and Detective Lockwood's presentation covered vehicle burglary prevention. Copies of the presentation are available online at: http://www.downeyca.org/_blobcache/0000/0006/6151.pdf

LIVING WITH CALIFORNIA COYOTES

Local residents have reported on social media and through the Downey Patriot that they have seen an increase in the coyote population in Downey. The Department of Fish and Wild Life has provided a few helpful tips to keep residents and their animals safe:

- **Never feed a coyote:** You may be inadvertently feeding coyotes by leaving pet food or garbage where they can get to it. Feed animals inside and lock trash can lids.
- **Protect children:** Never leave small children unattended in areas known to be frequented by coyotes.
- **Protect Pets:** Keep small pets indoors. Large animals should be brought in after dark.
- **Use Negative Reinforcement:** If coyotes frequent the area, make loud noise to scare them.
- **Clear brush & dense weeds:** This will reduce the protective cover for coyotes.

KEEP DOWNEY BEAUTIFUL CLEAN-UPS 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

No need to register, show up by 8:45 AM, anyone under 18 needs to be accompanied by an adult.

- **April 11th: Meeting at 12202 Paramount Blvd.**
-In the vacant lot at Paramount & Alameda
- **May 2nd: Meeting in the parking lot of Fresh and Easy**
-Located at 8320 Firestone Blvd.
- **June 6th: Meeting at 13028 Paramount Blvd.**
-Autozone parking lot