



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

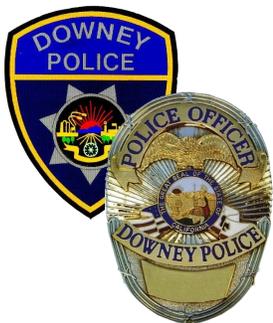
Volume 3

Issue 1

January - March 2014

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"ONE-RING" CELLULAR PHONE SCAM

Who's calling me? If the number doesn't ring a bell, don't answer, says the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). You can avoid becoming a potential victim of the "one-ring" cellular phone scam. Scammers are using auto-dialers to call cellular phone numbers across the country. They let the phone ring once, usually just enough for a missed call message to pop up on the screen.



If you do call the number back, chances are you'll hear something like, "Hello. You've reached the operator, please hold." In the meantime, you are getting slammed with charges, including a per-minute charge on top of an international rate. The calls that appear are from phone numbers with three-digit area codes that may appear to be from inside the United States. However, they are generated by international phone numbers, often in the Caribbean. The area codes include: 268, 284, 473, 664, 649, 767, 809, 829, 849 and 876.

If you get a suspicious call, do not pick it up and do not call the number back. According to the FTC, there's no danger in getting the call: the danger is in calling back and racking up a whopping bill. If you're tempted to call back, check the number through online directories first. They can tell you where the phone number is registered.

If you've been a victim of the "one-ring" scam, try to resolve the charges with your cell phone carrier. If that doesn't work, file a complaint with the [Federal Trade Commission](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov) and the [Federal Communications Commission](http://www.fcc.gov).

And as a general rule: Read your phone bill often — line by line. If you don't recognize or understand a charge, contact your carrier.

Recent Scam Alerts are available by visiting the Federal Trade Commission website at <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>

Courtesy of Federal Trade Commission

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 • jguzman@downeyca.org

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: ARE YOU PREPARED?

As you know, at 6:25 a.m. on March 17, 2014, there was a 4.4 magnitude earthquake approximately 15 miles northwest of Westwood, California. This is a great time to check or create emergency preparedness kits and plans. Use this event to remind your family, friends, neighbors and colleague to:

- Build an emergency preparedness kit
- Get basic First Aid and CPR training
- Make an emergency plan
- Attend City of Downey Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training



CERT TRAINING - YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The CERT program is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in an emergency. Rescue services may not be able to provide help immediately. The impact of a major disaster on the City of Downey should be a concern to every resident. The City of Downey has become part of a national network of CERT communities. Community based preparedness planning allows us to prepare for and respond to disasters. With training and information, individuals can be prepared to serve as a crucial resource capable of performing many of the emergency functions needed in the immediate post-disaster period.

CERT training covers basic skills such as first aid, fire extinguisher use, light search and rescue, and how to protect yourself from becoming a victim.

Classes will be held on three consecutive Saturdays, April 5th, 12th, and 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Barbara J. Riley Senior & Community Center located at 7810 Quill Drive. If you are unable to attend all three consecutive classes, the modules may be completed in a different city.

All training is provided free of charge by the Downey Fire Department

To sign up for training classes taking place on Saturday, April 5th, 12th, & 19th Register at ready@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



CITY OF DOWNEY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING PROCESS

1st Meeting – Introduction to Neighborhood Watch

- Identify and discuss neighborhood crime and public safety concerns.
- Start the problem-solving process to address issues.
- Define leadership roles (appoint Block Captain)
- Learn to observe and report suspicious activity and crime.
- Set the next meeting date, agenda items and meeting notification system.

2nd Meeting – Neighborhood Watch Fundamentals

- Group members will receive information about the best practices for personal safety and home security.
- Learn how to create communication network with your neighbors.
- Follow-up discussion about crime and public safety issues.
- Schedule Emergency Preparedness meeting

3rd Meeting – Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Committee staff will educate group members about disaster preparedness. Preparing your neighborhood is vital in community preparedness and resiliency. Neighbors that are prepared are more effective in their response to a disaster and have increased capacity to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after a disaster.

*After core meetings, it'll be the responsibility of the group to schedule and coordinate future meetings. If neighbors are interested in learning about a specific topic, the City can provide resources. The Downey Police Department encourages residents to be proactive, since the program is based primarily on community participation.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK CAPTAIN MEETING

On February 5, 2014, the Neighborhood Watch Program kicked off another year of keeping our neighborhoods safe with a block captain meeting. There were approximately 70 block captains in attendance. Mayor Vasquez, Council Member Saab and Council Member Guerra discussed the importance of Neighborhood Watch and provided an update about city developments. Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Jane Guzman discussed upcoming program changes and provided an opportunity for block captains to network with each other. Lt. Murray, Officer Valenzuela and Officer Barajas shared crime prevention tips and were available to answer questions. The meeting was a great opportunity to acknowledge block captains for the hard work they do throughout the year.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK

Saturday, April 26, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Downey Police Department
10911 Brookshire Ave. Downey, CA 90241
(West Parking Lot Area)

The Downey Police Department and community volunteers will collect unused, unwanted or out-of-date prescription medications. This event provides the community an opportunity to rid their homes of potentially dangerous drugs and minimizes the potential for abuse and misuse.

