

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



DOWNEY POLICE
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

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APRIL - JUNE 2020

A photograph of fireworks exploding at night, with an American flag in the foreground on the right side.

No Illegal Fireworks Allowed in the City of Downey

The Downey Police Department will be out on full force this Fourth of July holiday and on the lookout for the use and possession of illegal and dangerous fireworks. The City has Zero tolerance for illegal fireworks but does allow the sale and use of legal fireworks, identifiable by the California Fire Marshal's Safe and Sane seal.

Legal Fireworks may be purchased between July 1st, 2020 and July 4th, 2020. Fireworks not purchased at a community sales booth are illegal. Fireworks purchased out of state, on the internet, or from any other source, are illegal. Any firework that launches up into the air, repels across the ground, or explodes is illegal to sell or possess and can result in fines or arrest.

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As a reminder:

- Fines start at \$2,000 and can increase at \$3,000.
- Minors cannot possess or discharge fireworks unless with a reasonable adult.
- The discharge of safe and sane fireworks is permitted only on July 4th from the hours of 3pm to 10pm.

Our goal is to make the Fourth of July safer for everyone. We ask you to please consider the negative effects illegal fireworks have on a community and we thank you for your support.

To report illegal fireworks, please call the Downey Police Dispatch non-emergent number at 562.904.2363.





THE LATEST ON CRIME...

Residential and Retail crime has decreased.

Our Downey Police Detectives recently shared that residential and retail break-ins have decreased drastically, during the shelter-at-home rule. It is still encouraged to continue to always lock all doors and windows when exiting your home, even if it's for a quick errand. Make sure all exterior lights, or sensor lights are working properly and that all landscape continues to get trimmed to prevent a hiding place for loiterers or criminals.

Vehicles continue to be a target, especially vehicles that are left unlocked.

Our forensics unit has reported that many residents continue to leave their vehicles unlocked, while leaving valuable items inside. Residents have left purses, jewelry, electronics, and large amounts of money inside while also leaving the doors unlocked. Be proactive, and help us in reminding your neighbors to always remove valuable items and documents out of their vehicles as well as locking their car doors.

Recently, an influx of batteries, tailgates, and catalytic converters have been reported stolen throughout the city.

Vehicle owners have reported parts stolen such as batteries, tailgates and catalytic converters. Although taking preventative measures does not guarantee not being a victim of a crime, it can definitely work to discourage an opportunistic thief.

Preventative Tips:

- Park in a well-lit area, thieves may be deterred if they know they can be seen
- Install an audible alarm system
- Lock your vehicle and remove all valuable items
- If you see something, say something; report vehicle theft by calling 911 if you are a witness of an active crime or call the Downey Police Department's non-emergent Dispatch number at 562.904.2363



Gym parking lots have been hit by car break-ins.

With the recent re-opening of gyms, gym goers have reported vehicle break-ins during their workouts. Some victims left doors unlocked while others had a smashed window with items stolen from the car. Remember not to hide bags or purses under the seats. A thief may be in the area scouting for victims who they see hide bags under seats or look for bags moved to the trunk of a car. Always take all your belongings with you and do not leave anything of value.

Please report vehicle break-ins by calling the Downey Police Department's non-emergent Dispatch number at 562-904.2363 or 911 if you witness a crime in progress.





City of Downey Directory

OUR OFFICERS ARREST LOOTERS

Downey police officers are continuing to respond to calls for service and are actively patrolling the City throughout these difficult times. During the protest and looting in early June, officers responded to three reports of looting at local businesses. In each case, officers located and arrested multiple suspects, all of whom reside outside of Downey and all of whom now face felony charges for burglary. We want to thank our Downey residents and community partners for their part in reporting these crimes.

On May 30th, 2020, Shortly after 6:00 pm, officers responded to the Stonewood Mall for reports of looting inside the JCPenney department store. Several suspects attempted to flee, but were quickly arrested. The suspects were identified by mall security officers as having broken into JC Penney's, as well as a jewelry store and sports clothing store. In total, 6 males and 1 woman were arrested.

A short time later, several witnesses reported looting at a market, located in the 11500 block of Lakewood Blvd. When officers arrived, several suspects began running out from inside the business. Two suspects were detained and it was discovered they had made entry into the Market. Both men were placed under arrest for burglary.

Downey City Hall
(562) 904-7246

Police Department
General Information
(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)904-7284

Shopping Carts
(800) 252-4613

Animal Control
(562) 803-3301



Lastly, at about 2:00 am in the morning, officers responded to reports of a burglary at a shoe store on Firestone Blvd and Paramount Blvd. Two males, ages 20 and 22 and both from Los Angeles, removed plywood from the doors at the rear of the business, but were unsuccessful in prying open the fortified doors. The suspects were attempting to flee in a vehicle as officers arrived, but both suspects were quickly detained. They were arrested for the attempted burglary.

The Downey Police Department is committed to keeping the City safe, making every attempt to protect life and property.

