



IMPERIAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

SHERIFF RAYMOND LOERA

UNDERSHERIFF
FRED MIRAMONTES

PATROL DIVISION:
CHIEF DEPUTY JESSE OBESO

NORTH COUNTY PATROL:
LT. RICK MACKEN

SOUTH COUNTY PATROL:
LT. JERRY DEMORST

TO REPORT A CRIME
EMERGENCY:
9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY:
(760) 339-6311

CRIME STOPPERS:
(760) 339-NEED (6333)

SHERIFF'S SUBSTATIONS

BRAWLEY
(760) 351-2861

NILAND
(760) 359-0607

PALO VERDE
(760) 854-3469

SALTON CITY
(760) 394-4114

WINTERHAVEN
(760) 572-3657

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT
UNIT SUPERVISOR
SANDY LIERA

1078 DOGWOOD RD., SUITE 102
HEBER, CA 92249

OFFICE (760) 482-2430
FAX (760) 482-2435

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT WELCOMES YOU!

Greetings Imperial County! The Crime Prevention Unit would like to welcome you to its first issue of the Neighborhood Watch Program Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep our residents informed about the issues affecting their communities. As an ongoing effort to promote safer communities, we will include crime statistics from the different areas within the county, information on various crime prevention topics, as well as the progress of current Watch Programs. The newsletter will be available to the public on a quarterly basis.

The Crime Prevention Unit would like to extend an invitation to the public to assist us in promoting police-community partnerships. We greatly enjoy working with our communities to learn and grow, but mostly to provide insight and resolution to those who have concerns regarding the safety within their areas. This newsletter is open to any suggestions, questions, and requests from the public and will attempt to address these concerns in the following newsletter. If you would like a copy of this newsletter, please feel free to contact Paulina Solis at (760) 482-2434 or via email at solis_paulina@hotmail.com. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy reading the following contents.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Raymond Loera

WATCH PROGRAMS IN FORCE

The following communities have established Watch Programs in their areas:

Rio Bend RV & Golf Resort
El Centro
Manager: Carolyn Corrigan

Storm's Crossing Mobile Estate
El Centro
Manager: Carolyn Corrigan



Heberwoods Apartments
Heber
Manager: Alma Aguirre

Villa Paloma Apartments
Heber
Manager: Elizabeth Nuñez

Holtville
(areas within Sheriff's Office jurisdiction)

Desert Shores
Watch Captain: Herschel Silverstone

Salton City
Watch Captain: Imari Kariotis

SPECIAL NOTE:

Neighborhood Watch participants would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all deputies: "We applaud all efforts and support our local deputies in any way possible. Thank you!"

OPERATION CHILD I.D.

Operation
Child ID



www.icsso.org

The Crime Prevention Unit offers child fingerprinting for kid's groups, churches, organizations, schools, at the California Midwinter Fair and Fiesta, and during community outreaches throughout the year.

The Child I.D. system uses NEC software and a fingerprint image scanner. A web camera is used to photograph the child and a color printer prints out the form. The parent(s) provides important information about the child such as their name, address, parents' names, and physical description on this form. All information is kept by the parent(s). All images and fingerprints are purged for the safety and protection of the child. We only keep statistics of the ages and gender of the children we fingerprint.

We highly encourage parents to fingerprint their children at least once a year. If your child is lost or becomes missing, contact your local law enforcement officials and provide them with your Child I.D. form. With Operation Child I.D., parents are provided with an invaluable tool to safeguarding their most valuable possession: their children.

FINANCIAL CRIMES AGAINST THE ELDERLY

Financial crime is the most common type of elder abuse which is currently on the rise, especially during these difficult times. Financial crime is committed by a stranger, close relatives or caregivers. Fraud committed by strangers take place when the victim is deceived with the promise of obtaining goods, services, or other benefits that are nonexistent, unnecessary, never intended to be provided, or grossly misrepresented. Victims are contacted by telephone or mail. When by telephone, offenders will use high-pressure tactics to solicit money for fraudulent investments such as insurance policies, travel packages, and charities. However, such tactics are used to limit the benefit of the customer (victim) while maximizing the offender's profit. When contacted by mail, the victim will then be asked to send money to pay for the shipping and processing fees in order to obtain the prize. Unfortunately, the money sent is usually worth more than the actual prize.

There are also times when the offender is required to make face-to-face contact with the victim. In an attempt to gain entry to victims' homes, offenders may pose as utility workers. They will offer the victim to do yard work, or home and auto repairs. The offender posing as a utility worker will either 1) distract the victim while an accomplice burglarizes the home or 2) attempt to gain entry in order to catch a glimpse of any valuables inside to later burglarize the home.

When financial exploitation occurs at the hands of relatives or caregivers, the offender has a position of trust and an ongoing relationship with the elderly person (victim), which is mainly why this crime is underreported. The offender will steal, withhold or misuse the victim's money, property or values for personal profit. The offender can simply take the victims' money or valuables, deny medical care to conserve funds, or mishandle the victim's social security checks, ATM and credit cards. The offender will also use deceit, coercion, intimidation and emotional abuse to isolate the victim from friends and other family members and to prevent others from finding out about the abuse.

When crimes against the elderly go unreported, the assistance of police, adult protective services and family members are not mobilized to stop this form of abuse. Failure to report also makes it difficult for problem-oriented efforts to proceed due to the lack of information on the offender and his/her perpetrations. Most importantly, underreporting encourages offenders to continue victimizing our elders. Please take care of our elders and report any abuse to your local authorities.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

What is National Night Out?

National Night Out (NNO) is a nationwide crime prevention event in which our citizens, local law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials come together in an effort to reduce crime in our communities.

The purpose of celebrating NNO is to:

- ★ Increase crime and drug prevention awareness
- ★ Encourage support and participation in local anticrime programs
- ★ Strengthen police-community partnerships
- ★ Send a message to criminals letting them know we are taking back our neighborhoods

NNO is celebrated annually on the first Tuesday of August. The Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that this year's National Night Out will be celebrated in the community of Seeley at the John Bates Memorial Park. We encourage all Seeley residents to come out and join us on this big day!



HOME SECURITY

Knowing your home is protected provides a peace of mind to you and your family. Here are some guidelines that can improve the safety of your home while away:



- Remember to lock doors and windows.
- Make sure house numbers are visible. This is useful for law enforcement, fire or medical personnel when responding to a call.
- Use only your initials and last name on a mailbox.
- Make sure all doors, windows and yards are well lit at night.
- Do not attach a name tag to your home keys. If your keys are stolen, you may have an unwelcomed visitor soon!
- If away on vacation, ask your neighbors to check your home, pick up mail, and turn on lights at night.
- Do not enter your home if you see signs that it has been burglarized.

You may also request a free security inspection by contacting the Crime Prevention Unit. You will receive a written report outlining the steps you can take to make your home safer.

HEAT EXPOSURE!



Now that summer is here, we must take preventive steps to protect ourselves from heat exposure. Heat exposure, or hyperthermia, is when the body temperature rises to 106° or higher. We usually cool off body temperatures by sweating, but when hyperthermia occurs, sweating may not be enough. Heat exposure can become a serious threat since high body

temperatures may affect the brain and other vital organs. Youth between the ages 0-4 and persons over 65 years are more prone to heat exhaustion. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures may also cause:

- ⊗ **Heat Stroke:** when the body is unable to cool its temperature because the body temperature rises rapidly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool off
- ⊗ **Heat Exhaustion:** the body's response to the excessive loss of water and salt due to excessive sweating

Symptoms of heat exposure include:

- heavy sweating
- paleness
- muscle cramps
- tiredness
- weakness
- dizziness
- headache
- nausea/vomiting
- fainting
- cool or moist skin
- fast & weak pulse rate
- fast & shallow breathing

The following are some tips to help us keep cool during the summer:

- drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages
- rest
- take a shower or bath
- seek an air-conditioned environment
- wear light clothing
- remain indoors in the heat of day when possible
- do not engage in strenuous activities

We also ask the public to be mindful of their neighbors, especially the elderly. You can help by:

- visiting at least twice a week
- taking them to an air-conditioned location if they have transportation problems
- ensuring they have access to an electric fan

CURFEW FOR MINORS

The end of the school year is finally here. Many children are once again looking forward to a summer full of fun that at times can go passed the evening hours of the day. We ask parents to please abide by the curfew laws for the safety and protection of our children. The Imperial County has the following Curfew Ordinance:

From June 15th to September 15th, it is unlawful for a minor to loiter in public places or trespass on private property between twelve midnight (12am) and five (5am) every day.

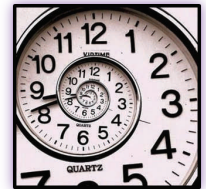
From September 15th to June 15th, it is unlawful for a minor to loiter in public or trespass on private property between 1) ten (10pm) and five (5am), Sunday through Thursday; and 2) twelve midnight (12am) and five (5am), Friday and Saturday.

When does it not apply?

The Curfew Ordinance does not apply when the minor is accompanied by a parent, legal guardian and/or his/her spouse who is not a minor; assisting an emergency situation; engaged in a legitimate business, occupation, or profession with the consent of parents or legal guardian; returning home directly from a meeting or recreational activity that is supervised or sponsored by a governmental agency, adult service club, church group or school authority; and/or returning directly from viewing a public motion picture.

Penalty:

Violating the Curfew Ordinance is a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine of ten dollars (\$10.00) or ten (10) days imprisonment in the County Juvenile Hall, or both fine and imprisonment for the first offense. Any violation after the first offense is punishable by fifty dollars (\$50.00) or twenty (20) days imprisonment in the County Juvenile Hall or both fine and imprisonment.



To keep your children active during the summer, we recommend parents to enroll them in activities offered by recreational centers, Police Athletic Leagues, and church groups in your local communities. By engaging our children in healthy activities, we will instill important values such as teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline. But most importantly, you will help promote safer environments for our children!

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program in your area, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit @ (760) 482-2434.





CRIME STATISTICS

APRIL – JUNE 2009



NORTH COUNTY

	<i>Desert Shores</i>	<i>Salton Sea Beach</i>	<i>Salton City</i>	<i>Bombay Beach</i>	<i>Niland</i>	<i>Palo Verde</i>	<i>Glamis</i>
Burglary	4	4	23	1	11	3	1
Theft	2	0	18	4	17	1	2
Vandalism	2	0	15	2	7	0	1
Trespassing	0	0	3	0	5	0	1
Disturbance	10	12	48	5	72	8	8
Drugs	1	3	36	0	11	4	1
Suspicious	6	9	34	4	16	3	2
Assault	0	2	2	1	3	1	0
Threats	2	1	1	0	4	1	1
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



SOUTH COUNTY

	<i>Ocotillo</i>	<i>Plaster City</i>	<i>Seeley</i>	<i>Heber</i>	<i>Holtville*</i>	<i>Felicity</i>	<i>Winterhaven</i>	<i>Bard</i>
Burglary	0	0	7	11	1	0	12	0
Theft	2	0	10	10	2	0	17	1
Vandalism	1	0	4	18	0	0	19	1
Trespassing	0	0	1	2	1	0	5	1
Disturbance	2	0	17	48	0	0	90	0
Drugs	1	0	3	21	0	0	63	0
Suspicious	6	1	18	22	4	0	31	0
Assault	0	0	1	5	0	0	2	0
Threats	0	0	1	6	0	0	2	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

WWW.ICSO.ORG

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM NEWSLETTER IS
PUBLISHED BY THE CRIME PREVENTION UNIT.**

EDITOR: PAULINA SOLÍS

YOU MAY CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:

PHONE (760) 482-2434 • FAX (760) 482-2435

EMAIL: SOLIS_PAULINA@HOTMAIL.COM

YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.

The statistics shown above are for the unincorporated area of Imperial County only. These may not include reclassified incidents. Additionally, due to reporting requirements and computer processing procedures, county statistics may not be consistent with State of California Department of Justice statistics.

**Statistics for the city of Holtville include reported incidents occurring in areas within Sheriff's Office jurisdiction.*