

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

October, 2008

Volume 38



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INFORMATION

The Torrance Police Department Community Affairs Division would like to welcome all our new Neighborhood Watch members.

So far this year, 25 new Neighborhood Watch groups have formed throughout the city adding approximately 600 members to our program.

The Torrance Police Department would like to thank everyone who is involved in our Neighborhood Watch program. As we have said before, "You are the additional eyes and ears our officers rely on." Your support and involvement help us keep our community safe.

For more information on Neighborhood Watch, please contact Services Officer Luz Aceves at

(310)618-6392.

The Torrance Police Department
presents

A Community Safety Training Day

WHEN: Saturday, October 25, 2008
Registration / Check-in from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

WHERE: Torrance High School, in the Annex Building
2200 W Carson Street, Torrance CA 90501
Parking lot located at Martina Ave and 218th Street

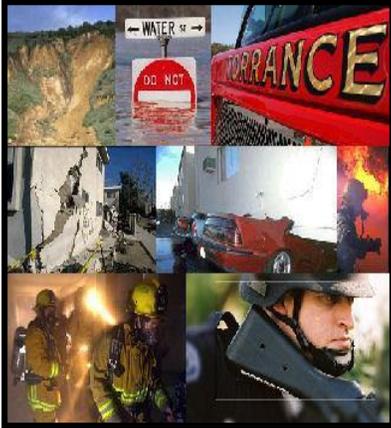
Training Topics: Neighborhood Watch Program 2008
Internet Safety for Parents
Residential Burglaries
Community Affairs
Elder Abuse / Scams
Auto Theft

The community is invited to attend free safety workshops and a Continental Breakfast hosted by the Torrance Police Department. Each workshop is 45 minutes in length with a chance to attend four different safety workshop topics. The workshops will be taught by Torrance Police Officers. You may register online at www.torrancepd.org or contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391. Attendance is limited to the first 200 people who register. Please note that these safety workshops are for adults only.

Schedule:	8:00 - 8:30 AM	Check-in / Continental Breakfast
	8:30 - 9:00 AM	Introduction
	9:00 - 9:45 AM	Workshop Session
	9:45 - 10:30 AM	Workshop Session
	10:30 - 11:15 AM	Workshop Session
	11:15 - 12:00 PM	Workshop Session
	12:00 - 12:30 PM	Question & Answer Period

This is the first of many "Safety Training Workshops" to be taught at venues within the City of Torrance, with the goal of teaching people how to protect their loved ones and property. The safety topics will be taught by police officers with expertise in their particular subject matter. For further information please call the Torrance Police Department's Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391 or 6392.

ARE YOU PREPARED IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR DISASTER?



The Great Southern California ShakeOut is a week of special events featuring the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history, organized to inspire Southern Californians to get ready for big earthquakes, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

According to the USGS (United States Geological Survey), the question is not if but when southern California will be hit by a major earthquake - one so damaging it will permanently change lives and livelihoods in the region. How severe the changes will be depends on the actions that individuals, families, businesses, schools, religious organizations, government, and others take to get ready.

To help prepare for this event, the USGS has developed a "what if" scenario based on a hypothetical 7.8 magnitude earthquake along the southern San Andreas fault. It is this hypothetical earthquake and projected damages that will be used as a basis for public drills and emergency response exercises on November 13, 2008, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

As a participant in this exercise, the City of Torrance will activate its Emergency Operations Plan, conduct evacuation drills at City buildings, and activate the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC will be fully staffed and functional from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., testing its ability to manage a strategic and coordinated response to simulated field incidents.

Additionally, City of Torrance Disaster Service Volunteers from CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), TARA (Torrance Amateur Radio Association), and ADT (Animal Disaster Team) will be working with members from Neighborhood Watch in activating an Area Disaster Center in the parking lot of the Henderson Branch Library. An Area Disaster Center is a pre-determined focal point for communicating necessary information to the community relating to a disaster in progress. ShakeOut Drill is your chance to practice what to do when it happens.

If you would like to learn more about disaster preparedness, please visit www.tornet.com/disasterpreparedness.

If you would like to learn more about The Great Southern California ShakeOut, please visit

<http://www.shakeout.org/>.

MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD (MYN) PROGRAM

MYN empowers citizens in the event of a disaster, when police and fire response may be delayed, knowing your most immediate source of help will come from your neighbors.

This 9 step program (taught in a 90 min session) allows neighbors to share the skills that they have as well as the equipment/resources each household can provide in the event of a disaster.

We at the Torrance Police Department feel it is a perfect complement to Neighborhood Watch, so as we have begun to strengthen our Neighborhood Watch Program we have also started to plant the seed for MYN.

If you would like more information about the MYN program, please contact Community Affairs at (310) 618-6391



FROM THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE DIVISION



HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS



The holiday season is a perfect opportunity for criminals to prey on unsuspecting shoppers because they know the shoppers' minds are preoccupied with gift buying, holiday parties and the like. The Torrance Police Department will be staffing extra officers patrolling all of our shopping centers during the holiday season to help ensure your safety. However, there are a few basic safety tips you can follow to help minimize the chances of you becoming a victim:

-  If possible, don't carry your purse with you; keep your cash or checks, credit cards and driver's license in your front pocket to avoid being pickpocketed during the busy shopping hours. If you carry your purse, make sure to keep it closed/zipped up so no one can reach in when your attention is diverted.
-  Have all your credit card numbers written down in a safe place so if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused you can call the issuer immediately to place a fraud hold on your account.
-  If possible, shop during daylight hours and if you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
-  Do not leave anything of value in your vehicle while shopping. Lock all packages/presents in your trunk and make sure to be aware of your surroundings if you have to make several trips to your car to offload gifts. Do not leave your purse or cellular phone in view, or tucked in behind your back seat—the criminals will see it and shatter your window to steal it. Take it with you or lock it in your trunk.
-  If you are planning on taking a vacation this holiday season, be sure to log on to the Torrance Police Department's website at www.torrancepd.org and sign up for a Vacation Security Check.



KNOW THE LAW! INFORMATION ON DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION

Although most forms of door-to-door solicitation is strictly prohibited in the City of Torrance, there is, by law, only one form allowed that does not require a City Permit. Any form of solicitation that is political or religious in nature is protected by Case Law under the Watchtower Decision. Essentially, this decision protects religious and political door-to-door solicitation under the U.S. Constitution's 1st Amendment—Freedom of Speech. The **ONLY** exception to this protection is if a resident has a clearly posted "No Solicitation" sign posted.

With the November elections closing in, residents may see an increased number of solicitors (political in nature) but are encouraged to remain vigilant as door-to-door solicitation remains an active ruse use by criminals looking to break in to houses. We also encourage you to call the Torrance Police Department at (310) 618-5631 whenever you see something suspicious!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SANTA FLOAT

The Torrance Police Officers Association started the Santa Float back in 1966 bringing candy and smiles to children of all ages. The current float was built in 1992 by members of the Police Officers Association. It is a completely voluntary operation coordinated by its members. The float begins its journey the Saturday following the Thanksgiving Holiday .

DAY / DATE	AREA
SAT 29 NOV	Carson to Maricopa, Madrona to Crenshaw
SUN 30 NOV	Carson to Sepulveda, Crenshaw to Western (Chatelaine)
MON 01 DEC	Del Amo to Carson, Crenshaw to Western
TUE 02 DEC	Sepulveda to 239th St., Crenshaw to Arlington
WED 03 DEC	Sepulveda to 242nd St., Arlington to Western
THU 04 DEC	Sepulveda to Lomita, Hawthorne to Crenshaw (Springwood)
FRI 05 DEC	PCH to South City Limits, Crenshaw to East City Limits, Windmill to South City Limits, Rolling Hills Road to Singingwood
SAT 06 DEC	Sepulveda to PCH, West of Anza/Calle Mayor
SUN 07 DEC	PCH to Winlock, Rolling Hills Way to Hawthorne and residences West of DePortola Park
MON 08 DEC	Calle Mayor to South City Limits, Southwest to Anza/Calle Mayor
TUE 09 DEC	PCH to City Limits, West of Calle Mayor
WED 10 DEC	Torrance to PCH, Hawthorne to Anza/Calle Mayor
THU 11 DEC	PCH to South city limits, Hawthorne to Via Colusa and Calle De Ricardo
FRI 12 DEC	Torrance to Sepulveda, West of Anza
SAT 13 DEC	Torrance to 190th, Anza to Madrona
SUN 14 DEC	Del Amo to Torrance, West of Anza (Pacific Colony)
MON 15 DEC	190th to Del Amo, West of Anza
TUE 16 DEC	Artesia to 190th, West of Prairie
WED 17 DEC	Artesia/405 Fwy, Prairie to Crenshaw
THU 18 DEC	RBB to Artesia, West of Crenshaw to Hawthorne
FRI 19 DEC	RBB to Artesia, Crenshaw to Western
SAT 20 DEC	Artesia to 405Fwy, Fwy to Western

Float leaves the station promptly at 5:00PM each night.
**Float leaves at 4:00PM on these nights.