



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

How Can You Make The New Year Safer???

As each New Year rolls around, we are inclined to make a "New Year's resolution," and decide that this is the year that we will actually stick with it. Resolutions normally consist of weight loss goals, exercising, eating healthier, or quitting bad habits such as smoking or drinking. While these resolutions are important, why not make a second resolution, one that not only impacts you, but your family, work place and community? This year, do something different. Make a resolution not only with yourself, but with others to practice crime prevention and personal safety in your community.

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2 Making a safety resolution is not only a great way to get yourself in the habit of practicing crime prevention, but also a way to make others aware of it as well. Whether you decide to practice safety at home, on the computer, or in your neighborhood, incorporating safety tips into your everyday routines will help to make crime prevention a regular part of your daily life.

So how will you decide to stick to your New Year's safety resolution? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Home and Personal Safety

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Always make sure your doors and windows are locked in your house and car.
- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility close to walkways, stores and people.

Cyber Safety

- Always keep your passwords private.
- Only order things from websites you know and trust.
- Avoid giving out your personal information.
- Avoid opening email or visiting websites that don't seem trustworthy.

Neighborhood Safety

- Start or join a Neighborhood Watch group on your block.
- Get to know your neighbors and work together to keep your neighborhood safe.
- Report any suspicious activity to the Torrance Police Department at (310) 328-3456.





TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT PODCASTING SHOW

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, the Torrance Police Department will be posting its first weekly Podcast show from inside the police department. This is a new community outreach initiative by the department, using social media in an attempt to inform citizens and business owners to real time information and bond a stronger partnership.

The Community Affairs Division of the department will produce a fresh 5-7 minute show each week (posting on Tuesdays) highlighting the most up-to-date information on crime prevention, education, trends and current events. In addition, each week the department will highlight a different program or section of the department (and sometimes the City) in a segment called, "Did You Know..." Another segment of the show will answer viewer emails.

In order to better distribute the weekly show, the department has developed a free mobile app for the Apple iOS and Android platforms. The app for the iPhone, iTouch and iPad are all available through Apple's App Store. The Torrance PD app for the Android platform is only available through Amazon (not the Android Market).

From the apps, you can watch the weekly episodes and interact directly with the police department by registering your Twitter and/or Facebook accounts with the apps. The show will also be available at the bottom of the department's website home page (Police.TorranceCA.gov), on the department's YouTube Channel (TPDCommAffairs) or via the rss feed of: torrancepolicedepartment.libsyn.com/rss.

REMINDER ON CALIFORNIA LAW REGARDING CELL PHONES AND DRIVING

A law passed by the California Legislature made it an infraction to talk on a cell phone while driving effective July, 1 2008. On January 1, 2009, an additional law was enacted making it an infraction to use any type of electronic wireless communication device to write, read or send text based communications.

Adults are allowed to talk on a hands free cell phone device while driving. Anyone under 18- years- old IS NOT allowed any use of a cell phone while driving, not even with a hands free device.

The law is stricter on teen drivers because of their lack of experience in driving. Also, teen drivers are more likely to be distracted while driving. The best practice is to turn off a cell phone while in a vehicle. If it is on and rings, do not answer it until you have safely reached your destination. The only allowable exception is to contact law enforcement, the fire department or health care provider in an emergency situation.

A police officer can stop any motorist seen using a cell phone or similar device in order to confirm a violation and/or take enforcement action. The Torrance Police Department strictly enforces these laws. For more information about the use of electronic wireless communication devices while driving, visit the California DMV webpage at

<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

  NOW YOU CAN LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AND SUBSCRIBE TO US ON YOUTUBE

 Broadcast Yourself

[Facebook.com/TorrancePD](https://www.facebook.com/TorrancePD)
[Twitter.com/TorrancePD](https://twitter.com/TorrancePD)
[Youtube.com/TPDCommAffairs](https://www.youtube.com/TPDCommAffairs)

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Torrance Police Department and

Torrance Community Services Department

Present

"Seniors Don't Be Scammed!"

Preventing Elder Abuse

Date: Tuesday, February 21st, 2012 at 10a.m.

Location: Torrance Main Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd.



The City of Torrance Community Services and Torrance Police Department join together to sponsor a fact-filled, informative and enlightening series for our Torrance Senior Community on how to avoid becoming a victim of elder abuse.

COMMUNITY SAFETY TRAINING WORKSHOP

The community is invited to attend free safety workshops hosted by the Torrance Police Department. Each workshop is scheduled from 6:00 to 7:30 PM and will take place at the Torrance Police Department (3300 Civic Center Dr.) You may register online at www.Police.TorranceCA.gov or contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391. Attendance is limited to the first 35 people who register. Please note that these safety workshops are for adults only.

The goal of these workshops is to teach people how to protect themselves, their loved ones and their property. The safety topics will be taught by Police Officers with expertise in their particular subject matter.

For further information, please call the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391 or 6392 or email us at CommunityAffairs@TorranceCA.gov.

DATE: Monday, February 6th, 2012 @ 6:00pm

TOPIC: Forensic Identification Specialist (CSI)



This class will focus on what to do if you are the victim of a crime. Our Forensic Identification Specialists will also be demonstrating how the Torrance Police Department is leading the way in the use of cutting edge technology to solve more crimes and keep more criminals off our streets.