



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2009

The 26th Annual National Night Out Against Crime is scheduled for Tuesday August 4th, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. This night is set aside for residents to show their united stand against crime in their neighborhoods. The concept behind the program was for people to take back their neighborhoods by gathering in the streets one summer night each year, turning on their house and/or porch lights and celebrating their power to control events in the community.

This is a perfect opportunity for you and your neighbors to get reacquainted. This is also a great opportunity to have an informal "meet and greet" with representatives from the Police Department. Everyone attending has a chance to come out and say hello to the Officers and Command Staff without the pressures of a "formal" meeting type setting.

Your National Night Out party or gathering doesn't have to be elaborate. The important thing is that you stay acquainted with your neighbors and take pride in keeping your

The following are some National Night Out party suggestions to help you plan your event.....

CONVERSATION MIXERS

- Block history stories
- Photos from past block parties and events
- Oldest resident award
- Newest resident award

SIMPLE REFRESHMENTS

- Potluck
- Lemonade/punch and cookies
- Coffee, tea and desserts
- Pizza
- Hamburgers and hotdogs
- Fruit and cheese platters



ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

- Board games
- Skits
- Coloring contest
- Chalk art
- Piñata
- Sack races
- Water balloons
- Face painting



ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

- Block party
- Chili cookout
- Hula Hoop contest
- Barbeque
- Scavenger hunt
- Cookie bake contest
- Karaoke



Please let us know if your block will be participating in National Night Out. We would like to hear from you no later than Friday July 24th so we can schedule an officer to attend your event.

Last year there were 17 scheduled block parties; if anyone has pictures from last year's event that they would like to share please bring them to the Police Department and leave them at the front desk addressed to Services Officer Luz Aceves or e-mail them to me at laceves@tornet.com, I will display them in our lobby.

If you need help organizing your Night Out, please feel free to contact Services Officer Luz Aceves in Community Affairs at (310) 618-6392.



Map Your Neighborhood

In a disaster, your most immediate source of help is the neighbors living around you. "Map Your Neighborhood" is a program designed to help neighborhoods prepare for disasters.

Premise:

In a disaster, the neighbors living around you are your most immediate source of help. Traditional 9-1-1 responders (police, fire, medical, and utility) are quickly overwhelmed by demand. Knowing what to do in the first hour (THE GOLDEN HOUR) of a disaster response may save a life, reduce the severity of injuries, and reduce the amount of damage that you, your family and neighbors sustain.

Major Goal of Map Your Neighborhood:

To prepare neighborhoods (generally 15-20 homes in urban areas, 6-7 in rural areas) to be self-reliant during the first hours of a disaster response when traditional 9-1-1 responders are overwhelmed by demand.

Objectives accomplished during a 90-minute neighborhood meeting:

- ◆ Learn the 9 Steps to take immediately following a disaster to secure your home and protect your neighborhood.
- ◆ Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are useful in an effective disaster response.
- ◆ Create a Neighborhood Map showing the locations of each natural gas meter and propane tank (about 67% of house fires following disasters are caused by leaking gas); and the locations of each neighbor who may need extra help in a disaster, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, or children who are home alone during certain times of the day.
- ◆ Pick locations for a Neighborhood Gathering Site and Neighborhood Care Center.

THE NINE STEPS:

1. Take care of your loved ones.
2. Protect your head, feet and hands.
3. Check the natural gas or propane at your home.
4. Shut off water at the house main.
5. Place the HELP or OK sign on your front door or window.
6. Put your fire extinguisher on the sidewalk.
7. Go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site.
8. Form teams to listen to the radio for alerts; check on elderly, disabled and children; check gas and propane; check homes with HELP cards and those with no card.
9. Return to Neighborhood Gathering Site to share what has been done.

How to Get Map Your Neighborhood Started in Your Neighborhood

1. Establish a Neighborhood Watch group on your block. You can get more information on how to do this by visiting <http://www.tornet.com/TPD/16946.htm> or by contacting Services Officer Luz Aceves in Community Affairs (310) 618-6392.

2. Set a date and time for you Map Your Neighborhood training. Coordinate through Community Affairs to have a trained C.E.R.T member available for your session.

3. A trained C.E.R.T member will contact you to go over the detail that must be addressed prior to your block's training session.





Emergency Preparedness Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

Instructor: TFD Personnel *Free*
Location: Torrance Fire Station #2
25135 Robinson Way, Torrance 90505

The CERT Basic Training course provides community members with the basic skills and information needed to be prepared for, and respond to, emergencies and disasters. This training is provided free of charge. Upon successful completion of the session, participants will receive a certificate of completion, a basic emergency supplies kit, and the opportunity to become a registered Disaster Services Volunteer with the City of Torrance.

Course topics include Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Fire Suppression, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search & Rescue, Team Organization, and a Disaster Simulation. Participants **must** attend all classes in the session to complete the course.

The course is limited to Torrance residents and business members of the Torrance Community (ages 18 and older).

Registration begins July 15.

Fall Session – 3 consecutive Saturdays

Dates Time Class : September 5, 12, & 19 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 6501.401

VACATION TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

- Have a good lock on all doors and windows and use them.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number (preceded by a "CA") or other identification number. Torrance Police Department has engravers you can sign out to engrave your property, contact Community Affairs
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.



The Torrance Police Department also offers Vacation Security Checks to all Torrance residents. While you are away on vacation, officers from the Torrance Police Department will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation. This is a free, but invaluable service provided by the Torrance Police Department to the citizens of Torrance. To sign up for a Vacation Security Check, log on to our website at www.torrancepd.org and click on either the "Online Services" tab or the "Crime Trends and Prevention" tab. The information requested on the form will be entered into our dispatch system so that our Patrol Officers will be notified at the beginning of their shift and be reminded to check your residence while you are away.

Please feel free to complete the form and submit it so that our officers have the opportunity to provide you with the level of service you deserve as a Torrance resident. If you have any questions regarding this service, you can contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391/6392.

FROM THE TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE DIVISION

HOW IDENTITY THEFT AFFECTS COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLINE

Nowadays, as a college student you probably use the Internet to search for just about everything. Because of this, it's not very difficult for identity thieves to turn your Internet use around to search for you. We're not saying you should stay away from the Internet. That would be impossible -- and just plain silly. However, you should be very careful about what kind of information you post and where you post it.



In a day and age when chat rooms, blogs, and online communities are rampant, it's hard not to divulge too much personal information on the Internet. When you create an online profile, you may believe that you're still pretty invisible. However, take a moment to think about how easy it is for you to find information about someone else. It doesn't take much time or effort, does it? So it's probably just as easy to find the same information about you. Whenever you post your personal information on the Internet, you're making yourself just a little bit more vulnerable to college student identity theft.

HERE ARE SEVEN SIMPLE TIPS TO FOLLOW WHILE YOU'RE ONLINE SO YOU DON'T BECOME AN IDENTITY THEFT VICTIM:

1. Never display your full name in an online profile.
2. Be discreet about where you live.
3. Only shop through reputable online merchants.
4. Never, ever fall for email hoaxes that ask for money. Even better, NEVER respond to spam.
5. Avoid email surveys that ask for a lot of information.
6. Always log out of a website before you exit.
7. Never post your picture along with personal information.

We realize that these things can be hard to avoid. However, we also realize that identity theft is a hassle that no college student wants to deal with. Just play it safe online and you'll protect yourself more than you can imagine.

SECTION 45.2.1. CURFEW RESTRICTIONS FOR MINORS.



a) It is unlawful for any minor to be present in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the City of Torrance during curfew hours. -from 10:00 P.M. any evening of the week, until 6:00 A.M. the following day-

b) It is unlawful for any parent or guardian of a minor knowingly to permit, or by insufficient control to allow, the minor to be present in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the City during curfew hours.

c) It is a defense to prosecution under Section 45.2.1(a) or (b) that the minor was:

- 1) Accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian, or by a responsible adult;
 - 2) On an errand at the direction of the minor's parent or guardian, or the responsible adult, without any detour or stop;
 - 3) In a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel;
 - 4) Engaged in an employment activity, or going to or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop;
 - 5) Involved in an emergency;
 - 6) Adjacent to the minor's residence;
 - 7) Traveling to or from a school or religious function, or other recreational activity sponsored by a legitimate organization that is supervised by adults and authorized by the minor's parent, without any detour or stop;
 - 8) Exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution; or
 - 9) Emancipated pursuant to law.
- d)** Each violation of this section will constitute a separate offense.

IMPORTANT NOTE

There has been a recent spike in vandalism reports regarding our BB gun bandit. The suspect drives a black 4 door late model sedan. It appears the suspect may have broadened his/her area of destruction to Redondo Beach and has possibly been shooting out car windows. If you have any information please contact the Torrance Police Department Detective Division at (310) 618-5550