



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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This newsletter is a publication by the South Pasadena Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit. Officer Richard Lee
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Identity Theft

Identity Theft continues to be a growing crime in the city and nationwide.

Identity Theft is the use of your personal information to obtain credit, goods or services without your consent.

The common use that a thief uses your identity for is to open new charge accounts, receive loans and establish cell phone accounts.

In most cases, victims don't know they are victims of a crime until they apply for a loan, receive credit cards that they didn't apply for, denied credit, or the sudden calls from debt collectors.

Thieves use a variety of ways to obtain your personal information: stealing mail, wallets, and going through trashcans. Thieves also pretend to be your bank and call asking for your information. "Phishing" is still popular and it is when a thief sends an email to you attempting to trick you into giving up your information.

Thieves will also use your social security number to gain employment and file for tax refunds.

Here are some tips to help minimize becoming a victim:

- *Don't give personal information over the phone or internet.*
- *Don't leave your wallet unattended, or in plain sight inside your vehicle.*

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- *Use a PO Box or a lockable mailbox to help deter mail theft.*
- *Deposit outgoing mail in a mail collection box, or at the post office.*
- *Make sure you are using a secured web browser when shipping on the internet.*
- *Shred old receipts, pre-approved credit card offers, or any mail with your personal information on it.*
- *While out shopping, remember to always take receipts with you.*
- *Reconcile monthly banking statements promptly, and immediately report any unauthorized charges.*
- *Check your credit report once a year from one of the three major credit bureaus:*
*Equifax: www.equifax.com
800-685-1111*
*Experian: www.experian.com
888-397-3742*
*Transunion: www.transunion.com
800-888-4213*

Follow Us On The Web

To get up-to-date news and alerts from the police department, follow us on the internet: Nixle, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and Crimereports.com.

Crime Statistic Map

To know where crime is occurring in South Pasadena, look at the monthly Crime Statistic Map on the back of this page.



Auto Burglaries

Recently, we have seen a rise in auto burglaries.

Auto burglaries are a crime of opportunity and burglars simply walk down the street and see what victims have left in plain view for them to take. Often times these include valuables such as purses, wallets, cell phones and portable GPS units. In some incidents, the burglar took the third row bench seat.

The most common method of entry was by smashing a window. Other times, the doors were simply left unlocked by the victim making entry even easier.

Auto burglaries mostly occurred during the overnight/nighttime hours around residential neighborhoods, especially at apartment/multi-unit complexes.

The Crime Prevention Unit offers these **FREE** services

- Engravers to mark your property "Community Opportunity for Property Security (COPS) Program."
- Home Inspection Surveys.
- Email alerts of crime bulletins and weekly crime summary.

If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch Group or receive future copies of this newsletter, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit.