



**Porterville Police Department
Press Release**

Burglary Alert

Over the past several weeks the Porterville Police Department has seen an increase in burglaries. These burglaries have been in the form of vehicular, residential, and commercial, with the majority of them being vehicular. These burglaries, specifically vehicular, have not been specific to one area of town, but more often than not, the targeted vehicle has been Chevrolet Silverado pick-ups. A rise in burglary and theft related crimes is typical for the holiday season, however, citizens of Porterville should take daily precaution to help prevent them or their neighbor from becoming a victim.

The Porterville Police Department would like to offer some information relative to these crimes so people are familiar with their role as a neighbor, a witness, or an unfortunate victim.

Because one specific area in town has not been targeted, all residents should keep a close eye on their neighborhoods. Most residents are familiar with the vehicles and persons commonly seen in their neighborhood. If a resident sees a strange vehicle or person in their neighborhood, call the police department immediately. If possible, safely maintain visual contact of the strange vehicle and/or person and report the activity to the dispatch operator. The police dispatcher will ask a series of identifying questions to relay to the officer responding so the officer knows what to look for. Residents should communicate often with each other to relay activity occurring in their neighborhoods.

If a person sees a crime occur, safely be the best witness he/she can be. Quickly call 9-1-1 and report the incident immediately. Just like reporting a suspicious person or vehicle, several questions will be asked by the dispatch operator. It is important to give specific details to the crime, as you may be the only witness.

If a citizen becomes an unfortunate victim, call the police department immediately and report the crime. Do not touch anything and be prepared to answer several questions by the

responding officer. Recently, electronic equipment such as televisions, gaming consoles, and stereos, have been the most popular items taken during a burglary. The Porterville Police Department urges all citizens to record serial numbers of such items to assist officers and detectives with identifying and locating personal property. Burglaries are generally crimes of opportunity. Make sure vehicles and residences are locked and secured. Do not leave anything of value visible in vehicles by locking items in trunks.

The Porterville Police Department wants all citizens to be aware of the spike in burglaries occurring in their town. Please take the necessary precautions to deter a crime happening to you or in your neighborhood. We urge our community members to communicate with each other and the police department. To report suspicious activity or a crime contact the Porterville Police Department at 782-7400.