



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



December - 2009  
Volume 3, Issue 1

## Crime Prevention Insider

December- 2009

•Crime Prevention Unit  
805-781-4547

• Neighborhood/  
Business Watch  
805-781-4483

• Rural Crime  
Ranch/Farm  
Watch  
805-781-4578

Ctrl -Click on the  
SLO  
County Sheriff's  
Website Link below for more  
Crime Prevention  
Information  
<http://www.slosheriff.org>



For more information  
pertaining to cyber  
safety, Ctrl-Click on  
on the links below:

<http://getnetwise.org>

<http://netsmartz.org>



### KEEP YOUR HOLIDAYS HAPPY!

#### When you are out and about:

- Park your vehicle in a well lit area.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Lock packages in the trunk, when going from store to store.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use checks or credit cards, when possible.
- If your credit cards are lost, stolen, or misused, notify the issuers immediately.
- Children should never go to a parking lot or to your car alone.
- To have freedom of motion, clear visibility, and to avoid mishaps, don't overload yourself with packages.

#### At Home:

- When leaving home, lock your doors and windows, even if you will only be away for a few minutes.
- Give the impression that your house is occupied by leaving lights and a radio or television on.
- Use an automatic timer for your lights if you are not home during the holidays. Have a neighbor watch your house and collect your mail and newspapers.
- Consider having a free Security Survey from the Crime Prevention Unit to learn about other ways to be safe.

**For more information regarding a free home security survey call: 781-4483**

### BE CYBER SAFE YEAR-ROUND

*This past October was proclaimed "Cyber Safety Month" however, cyber safety is a year round job.*

#### When Shopping On-Line:

- Know who you are buying from – Deal only with reputable companies and give them only enough information to make the purchase.
- Avoid using debit cards for online purchases. Credit cards usually offer some protection against identity theft and may limit the monetary amount you will be responsible for paying. Debit cards, however, do not offer that protection. Because the charges are immediately deducted from your account, an attacker who obtains your account information may empty your bank account before you even realize it.

#### Check Company Policies:

- Check the return and cancellation policy, delivery time, warranty information, and check the final cost, including the shipping. Print out this information in case you need it later.

#### Check for Unauthorized Charges:

- Regularly check your bank and credit card accounts for any unauthorized transactions. Understand your responsibilities if your checking or credit card accounts are used fraudulently.

#### Child/Teen Safety on the Internet:

- Monitor your child's on-line activities. Know their password(s) for e-mail and any social networking sites they may visit. Limit their time on the computer. Have the computer they use set up in a common living area.
- Teach children not to give out identifying information such as their name, parent's name, home address, school, or telephone number in a chat room or bulletin board. Also, be careful about revealing such information via e-mail. If any of their "cyber friends" want to meet face-to-face, instruct your child to let you know immediately.

**For more cyber-safety tips, ctrl-click on the links located just to the left of this article.**

**HOW TO SPOIL A CRIMINAL'S DAY**

## What's New at San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department?

**Suspect suspicious activities? REPORT IT!**

We have recently launched our new website! There are links to various informational pages and lists of Frequently Asked Questions so you are in the know! There is an opportunity to view what crimes have occurred in the Sheriff's Department jurisdiction through our Crime Mapping link, information on the jail, resources, and services. If you don't have Microsoft Silverlight, you will have to download that program to view the map. (You will be prompted when you click on the crime mapping link.) There is also information regarding volunteer opportunities and programs, such as Neighborhood, Business, and Ranch Watch. We will be updating the website on a regular basis, so check it out often. [www.slosheriff.org](http://www.slosheriff.org)

Beginning December 1st, our Public Information Officer, Rob Bryn, will be doing Crime Prevention radio broadcasts various weekdays during the morning commute on, KVEC - 920 AM & COAST - 101.3 FM. Tune in regularly to learn: **"How to Spoil a Criminal's Day"**.



## CONGRATULATIONS SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S CITIZEN ACADEMY – CLASS # 26



### Sheriff's Citizen Academy (SCA)

SCA provides community members with an inside look at the Sheriff's Department and all facets of law enforcement. Participants will tour the Jail, Court Services, Dispatch/911 Center, and the Crime Lab. SCA meets once per week and generally spans over 10 weeks.

### Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol (SAVP)

SAVP is designed for the citizen who has an interest in helping law enforcement and the community, patrolling neighborhoods, reporting suspicious activity, and conducting traffic control as needed. In order to become a member of SAVP, you must attend a 5 session academy, held once per week on Saturdays. **\*\* Prior to attending the Academy, a background check will be conducted, which takes time, so if you are interested, contact the number below as soon as possible to obtain an interest card. In order to attend the next Academy, you must submit an SAVP Interest card by 12/20/2009. \*\* The next SAVP Academy will be held: 04/10 – 05/08/2010.**

**For further information regarding SAVP or SCA please contact  
Crime Prevention Specialist, Marsha Mann (805)781-4483**

### Mounted Posse

One of the oldest auxiliary units is the Sheriff's Posse. Dating back to the 1940's, the unit consists of volunteers on horseback who represent the Sheriff's Department in parades, perform searches, and provide event security. Each of the 38 members is required to provide and maintain their own horse and equipment.

The Posse is divided into two teams. These teams include the Search and Rescue Team, and the Ceremonial Team.

**If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information regarding the Sheriff's Posse, contact: Deputy Ed Bryant – 805-434-4290**

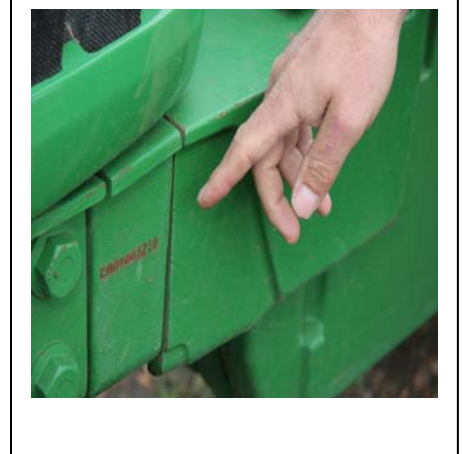


## Rural Crime Prevention

A growing concern for many counties is the theft of chemicals from rural areas. Just a few gallons of some materials can cost several hundred dollars, so it is important that steps be taken to secure them to prevent theft.

- Make sure that all sheds and facilities holding your chemicals are securely locked, with few workers having key access.
- Keep these locations well lit at night with motion sensor lighting.
- Consider registering for an Owner Applied Number (OAN). For further information on this identification and recovery program contact the Rural Crime Unit at the Sheriff's Department.
- Report all thefts to law enforcement immediately.
- Call for a free Security Survey from the Sheriff's Department so that vulnerable areas of your property and out-buildings can be improved.

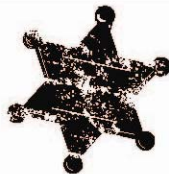
*For further information regarding OAN or rural crime issues, please contact our Rural Crime Specialist, Brandy Swain (805)781-4578*



**Owner Applied Number  
(OAN)**

## HOW TO SPOIL A CRIMINAL'S DAY

**NO. 645** Learn how to secure your equipment and supplies with a Ranch Security Survey provided by the SLO County Sheriff's Department.



**SLO County Sheriff's  
Advisory Council**

[www.slosheriff.org](http://www.slosheriff.org)