

# *The Watch Dog News*

*Livermore Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit*



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Editor: Rich Spivey

**Crime Prevention: 925-371-4978**

**Non-Emergency: 925-371-4987**

**www.livermorepolice.org**

**Crime Tip Hotline: 925-371-4790**

**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME®**

## **Holiday Safety Tips**

The holiday season is a perfect opportunity for criminals to prey on unsuspecting shoppers because they know the shopper's minds are preoccupied with gift buying. Even though the police department will be staffing extra officers to patrol all the shopping centers during the holiday season to help ensure your safety. However, there are a few basic safety tips you can follow to help minimize the chances of becoming a victim:

If possible, don't carry your purse with you; keep your cash or checks, credit cards and driver's license in your front pocket to avoid being pick pocketed during the bust shopping hours.

Have all your credit card numbers written down in a safe place so if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused, you can call the issuer immediately to place a fraud hold on your account.

Do not leave anything of value or visible in your vehicle while shopping. Lock all packages/presents in your trunk and make sure to be aware of your surroundings if you have to make several trips to your car to off load gifts. If possible move your car to another location and then go back in to continue to shop.

Holiday deliveries to the front porch - criminals who are helping themselves is on the rise again during the Holiday season. Try to have packages delivered to a person who is home or have them require a signature before delivery can be made.

Remember to keep your nicely wrapped presents away from the windows and out of sight. It is the practice to put them next to the tree right in front to the window but should the prowler look in that window they see an opportunity to score more great loot.



## For Safe Holiday Celebrations

December is the busiest time of the year. In addition to shopping for those last minute holiday gifts, there are holiday parties and celebrations to plan and attend which allow us to catch up with family and old friends. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the holiday season is also considered to be dangerous since this is the time of year when alcohol related crashes are at their highest. This year, make sure to do your part to prevent impaired driving in your community.

### Be a Responsible Host

- Provide plenty of food to keep your guests from drinking on empty stomach.
- Offer nonalcoholic drinks such as water, soda, or sparkling apple cider.
- If a guest has had too much to drink, arrange an alternate ride for them or spend the night.

### *Have a safe and happy holiday season*

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 Livermore 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>.

### **Possible Mail Theft from Curbside Mail Boxes**

There has been reported mail theft from street side mail boxes lately. If you see anything suspicious in the Neighborhood call 371-4987 Livermore Police Dispatch. Report stolen mail 1-877-876-2455 or go to their website @ <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/>



### **Portable Basketball Hoops**

Portable basketball hoops are commonly found in many neighborhoods in our community. When properly stored as required by the Livermore Planning and Zoning Code Chapter 12.08, the hoops are a great way to have fun and get exercise.

However, when stored on sidewalks, in streets and other public property, they can cause risks for pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

#### **Portable basketball hoops must:**

- Be stored on private property when not in actual use
- Not be stored in a manner that interferes with use of sidewalks
- Not be stored or used in a manner that interferes with vehicle traffic or that cause any type of vehicle or pedestrian traffic hazard

Crime Map: View what is going on 3 days, 7 day 24 days, 30 days log into crime maps .com and use zip code or [www.cityoflivermore.net](http://www.cityoflivermore.net) there is general information.

## **BE CAREFUL WITH INFORMATION**

- Don't leave notes on your door when you are away from home.
- Don't give your name or whereabouts on your answering machine message. Never say you're not at home.
- Don't discuss your finances or possessions with strangers.
- Keep valuable papers, jewelry, etc. in a bank safe deposit box. Don't store them at home unless you have a security closet or a safe that is well hidden and cannot be removed.

## **WHEN IN DOUBT, PLAY IT SAFE**

- Call the police at 9-1-1 if you are at home and hear or see something suspicious. Don't take direct action yourself. An officer will be dispatched to your address even if you cannot speak or hang up.
- Don't go in or call out if you return home and suspect someone has broken into your home (e.g. if a window or screen is broken, a door is ajar, or a strange vehicle is parked in the driveway). Go to a neighbor's home and call the police.

## **IDENTIFY YOUR PROPERTY**

- Etch your driver's license number on any valuables that might be stolen.
- Photograph and/or videotape valuables that cannot be etched.
- Keep a detailed, up-to-date record of your valuables. Include type, model, serial number, and fair market value.

## **HELP THE POLICE GET TO YOUR HOME**

- Make sure your street address is clearly visible from the street and is well lighted at night so police and other emergency personnel can locate your home easily.
- Numbers on curbs or mail boxes should not be the sole means of residence identification. If numbers are painted on curbs, they should be located near driveways where they are not likely to be blocked by parked vehicles.

### **Just a Few Notes:**

- January 1, 2013 Happy New Year Day is a good day to change your smoke detectors batteries if you didn't do it at time change day.
- When it's inclement weather "Raining "Turn on your headlights while using your windshield wipers.

- It's illegal to have a dust cover over your license plate.

### **Identity Theft Web Site References**

#### **Credit Reporting Agencies**

##### ***Equifax***

[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

P. O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348

(800) 525-6285

##### ***Experian***

[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

P.O. Box 9532 Allen, TX 75013

(888) 397-3742

##### ***Transunion***

[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

P. O. Box 1000 Chester, PA 19016-1000

(800) 680-7289

#### **Identify Theft Information Resources**

##### ***Federal Trade Commission***

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

##### ***United States Postal Service***

[www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov)

##### ***California Attorney General***

[www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov)

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED PHONE NUMBERS

### Emergency 911

Abandoned Vehicles	Police Department	371-4824
Neighborhood	Crime Prevention	371-4797
Crime/Gang Tip	Hotline	371-4790
Graffiti Hotline		373-5600
Horizons Family	Counseling	371-4747
Traffic Information	Traffic	511
Livermore Police	Dispatch from your cell phone	371-4987
Recycling	Stopwaste.org	1-877-stopwaste
Animal Shelter		803-7040
Block Party Permits	Engineering/City/Permits	960-4440
Bus Service Wheels	www.wheelsbus.com	455-7500
Social Security	www.ssa.gov	
Construction Noise	Police Department	371-4987
Side Yard Structures	Building Department	960-4410
Trash/Old Cars, etc.	Code Enforcement	960-4450
Weed Abatement	Fire Prevention	454-2362
Neighborhood	Preservation	960-4444
Crime Tipp Hotline	Police Department	371-4790
PG&E	Hotline	800-649-7570
Hazardous Materials	Fire Prevention	454-2362
L.A.R.P.D.	Livermore Parks	373-5700
Police Records	Police Department	371-4900
Senior Citizen Center		373-5760
Maintenance	Maintenance Department/street light repair	960-8020
Request for new	Engineering Department	960-4500
City of Livermore	www.cityoflivermore.net	