



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

IN YOUR COMMUNITY



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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A SALUTE TO THE PAST AND A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

“Yusta” is probably the most common word that law enforcement and Neighborhood Watch presenters hear when taking incident reports or providing personal and property safety information. Although I have looked up this word in my most trustworthy Webster’s Dictionary, the word is missing and seems to be limited to those having a difficult time accepting the current way things are, or to those who love to reminisce.

In public safety, “Yusta” is usually used when referring to being able to leave belongings in the front yard, bicycles in the bicycle rack (locked or unlocked), leaving a window cracked on a hot day, leaving a jacket in the car or the car unlocked in one’s own driveway, or taking a stary night stroll along the bay or the beach alone. But, of course, we also have to look at “yusta” in terms of adults living to an average age of 42, riding horses to work, women not voting, dodo birds, \$1.25 per gallon gas, and more. It’s difficult to address specific “yustas”, because for each of us it is different and relative.

There is a special tone of voice and facial expression that goes along with the word “yusta”. Try it. Find something that irks you that you really liked and is gone. Now say out loud that you “yusta” be able to do, get, see, enjoy, or whatever the thing is. Say it with vigor! Mean it! Lament it. No matter how hard one tries to recreate it, wish it to be available, complain, wait for it to reappear, it is still gone- not forgotten, just gone. Accept that it is no longer, and get on with what you can do, get, see, experience, or whatever.

Living in the world of “yustas” can be discouraging, frustrating, and for those who dislike change, it can be overwhelming. For instance, I “yusta” be able to read with my arms at a 45 degree angle without glasses. Now my reading glasses make that possible. Some of our “yustas” can be accommodated and some can’t. I know that many of the “yustas” of public safety that we all loved and treasured are gone or significantly modified, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t a way for each of you to feel safe and be safe. The 21st century is the age of upgrading, merging and converting. This is the time to upgrade and install sensor lights and an alarm system, train your family to lock the windows and doors when leaving the house, learn how to make an effective call to your local law enforcement agency, purchase proper bike locks, lock your vehicle every time you get out, start or join a Neighborhood Watch Program and more. It’s a matter of converting. Recognize and accept the changes that need to be made. Upgrade your safety efforts which will increase your peace of mind.

And remember, things aren’t always what they “yusta” be, but they can still be great.



Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Overview of the Program

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is a program that brings neighbors together to not only identify and combat crime, but to create a sense of community and develop safer neighborhoods for all.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS:

- One of the oldest and best known crime prevention concepts in North America
- An opportunity to volunteer and work towards increasing the safety and security of our homes
- A proactive, community-oriented approach to crime prevention
- Helpful in reducing crime, creating a better quality of life, and a establishing a greater sense of security, responsibility, and personal control

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS NOT:

- A vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.
- A 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood.
- A program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.
- Does not give you or your NW members a priority in calls.

THE THREE ELEMENTS OF CRIME

There are three elements necessary for crime to occur:

- 1 OPPORTUNITY:** You have created a situation for a burglar or attacker to choose your residence or person. By this we mean you have left a garage door open; a window ajar, items in your vehicle. This is the ONLY aspect Neighborhood Watch can control!
- 2 DESIRE:** The criminal desires to hit your property as you've set him/her up to do so! Desire is based on opportunity; and also the criminal's financial or drug need (Neighborhood Watch cannot affect this).
- 3 ABILITY:** The criminal has the ability to break in or burgle you as he or she sees the opportunity (Neighborhood Watch cannot affect this).

neigh·bor·ly
ADJECTIVE

characteristic of a good neighbor, especially helpful, friendly, or kind

NWP PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Learn your neighbor's names and contact numbers (cell, work, home). Be able to recognize them and their vehicles without any hesitation.
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings and neighborhood events
- Keep a copy of all your Neighborhood Watch information in an easily accessible, secure place and continually update it with any new information provided by your neighbors.
- Implement all security measures suggested by the HCSO.
- Learn the techniques of getting an accurate description of a suspect or a vehicle. Practice describing people and vehicles.
- Keep an eye on your neighbors' homes and report any suspicious activities to the HCSO and alert other neighbors.
- Post Neighborhood Watch window stickers and signs.
- When you plan to leave for any length of time, arrange to have your mail and newspapers picked up, or put a hold on those items. Timers should be activated for your lights.
- If you are leaving home for an extended period of time, notify your neighbors so added attention can be placed on your home.
- Get involved! Look out for each other! Be a good witness with written notes. Participate in your Neighborhood Watch Program and Neighborhood Association.



Household Emergency Information

Household name and Address: _____
Date: _____

Please use this template to share emergency contact and response information with neighbors, relatives, and friends of your choice.

Names of adults in household: _____

Names and ages of children in household: _____

Postal address: _____
Home telephone number(s): _____
Work telephone number(s): _____

Cell phone or other phone numbers where we can be reached in an emergency: _____

Email addresses to reach us if we are away: _____

Circle this line if YES, we want neighbors to check on our household in a local emergency.

Circle this line if YES, we want YOU (info recipient) to check on our household in a local emergency.

We will request Neighborhood Watch volunteers to check on our home when we notify the Neighborhood Watch coordinators that we will be traveling out of town.
Circle: Yes, always Yes, in some cases No, never

Mobility impairments or health issues for household members that neighbors, friends (and possibly emergency personnel) should be aware of in an emergency: _____

Name(s), phone number(s), and locations of local people whom neighbors should contact if we are found to need help during an emergency: _____

Name(s) and phone number(s) of people OUT OF THIS AREA whom neighbors or friends should contact if we are found to need help and local contacts cannot be reached or cannot help: _____

NWP FAMILY DATA SHEET

Family data sheets should list everyone's name, address, phone numbers, email addresses and other important information about the neighbors. These lists MUST be kept confidential. Only Neighborhood Watch participants should have the information (See family data worksheet at end of packet).

**Remember, you are building this group on trust and caring, and should have each other's welfare in mind.

Something to keep in mind is every day we write checks to total strangers and give them access to our personal lives. We are giving them our driver's license number, address, phone number, etc. So if your neighbors are hesitant to give you their phone number/car license plate/work number to someone they "know"...at least be willing to give the information to the block captain so they can be contacted in an emergency.

INVENTORY YOUR VALUABLES

By participating in Neighborhood Watch, you help the HCSO to recover any items that may be taken in a burglary; but more so, you may be preventing burglary. To help deputies return your stolen items if found, we recommend you take an inventory of your valuables. Keep a list of serial numbers of your valuable items that have them – tools, electronics, etc. and keep that list in a safe place (*see serial number worksheet at end of packet*). Also, we recommend using a marking or number/lettering on your property that only you would be able to identify. Write that number down. Do not use your Social Security number. Engrave the number on your property and then enter ID at the end.

STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION



1. Introduction to Neighborhood Watch

- Current concerns in your neighborhood
- How to report suspicious activity
- What are the most common crimes in your neighborhood
- How to lessen the criminal opportunity

2. Home Security

- Lighting
- Landscaping
- Mail/Newspaper Delivery
- Vacation Security

3. Personal Security

- Street
- Driving
 - Keep your gas tank full and your engine properly maintained to avoid breakdowns.
 - Always lock your car doors, event when you're inside and keep your windows rolled up.
 - Lock packages and other valuables in the trunk. Do not leave them on the back seat or on the floor where potential thieves can see them.
 - When you return to your car, always check the front and back seat before you get in
- Home
 - Always keep your doors and windows locked. Install dead-bolt locks on all doors.
 - Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out, and keep your curtains closed at night.
 - Ask for proper identification from delivery men or strangers. Don't be afraid of asking!
 - If a stranger asks to use your phone, offer to place the call for him/her yourself. Never let them into your house.
 - Do not leave notes on your door when you are gone and do not hide keys under the mat or in other conspicuous places.
 - Never give out information over the phone indicating you are alone or that you won't be home at a certain time. Train your family to do the same.
 - When you are gone more than a day, make sure your home looks and sounds occupied – use automatic timers to turn on lights and a radio or television.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM

- If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, **DON'T GO IN!** Leave quietly and call **911** to report the crime. (See *Reporting Crime* for more information)
- If you are attacked on the street, make as much noise as possible by calling for help or blowing a whistle. Do not pursue your attacker. **Call 911 and report the crime as soon as possible.**
- If you have been swindled or conned, report the crime to the HCSO or district attorney's office. Con artists count on their victim's reluctance to admit they've been duped, but if you delay, you help them get away.



Remember, if you never report the crime, the offender is free to cheat others again and again, and you have no chance of ever getting your money or property back.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SAFETY TIPS

1 PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

Prescription medications are often stolen in the course of burglaries. The burglars are not picky about what they take, and in their rush they take them all. Common places burglars look for medication include the bathroom cabinet, kitchen cupboard, in closets, and next to the bed. They will dump everything in to a backpack or duffel bag to sort out later. While they normally look for pain-killers, anti-anxiety, or other common medications of misuse to use or sell, they will take everything!

Theft of prescription medications causes major problems for the victim. To replace medications, an additional doctor's visit (not just a re-issued prescription) may be necessary. Medications covered by insurance may not be covered twice within a certain amount of time, so out-of-pocket expenses can be substantial. Some medications may not be refilled at all within a certain amount of time without a copy of a police report documenting the theft. Police reports commonly take two to three weeks to process.

You can see the problem! Medications needed daily should be locked up or otherwise secured. It can take a few days to straighten out the theft of medications, if not two to three weeks when police reports are required.



2 TIMERS FOR LIGHTS, RADIO AND TV'S

Get a timer for your radio or TV and some lights in different rooms. When you're out of town, set the timers for mid-day and then later at night. TV's and radios set on a talk show station may sound like someone is in the house to a person snooping. Select random or staggered times to replicate how people naturally move about the house. Remember that many burglaries can happen in the middle of the day- so don't neglect the day-time lights and radio action!

SAFETY TIPS CONTINUED

3 CAMERAS AND LIGHTS OUTSIDE

Installing a surveillance system on the outside of your home, coupled with motion activated lights, makes for a powerful defense. These tools are more affordable now than ever before. When choosing cameras, make sure to buy the highest quality resolution as cost allows. Surveillance video can be a helpful tool when not blurry or pixelated. Be sure to keep the time stamp of your video accurate and be ready to provide surveillance to law enforcement if an incident occurs.



Be part of the #9pmroutine:

**Lock your doors
Secure all valuables
Every night
9:00 pm**

Report  Suspicious Activity

4 THE 9 P.M. ROUTINE

The 9 p.m. Routine is a movement created to help cut down on preventable crime in our communities. At 9 p.m. community members are encouraged to remove valuables from their cars and lock them, lock their houses and windows, check their mail and close their garages. By getting into the 9 p.m. Routine, residents are able to prevent burglaries and cut down on crime through simple actions that are often forgotten.

HOME SECURITY POSSIBILITIES



**MR. BEAMS
ULTRA BRIGHT
SPOTLIGHT
4-PACK
\$122**

Available at Amazon.com or Costco
Weatherproof, Motion Sensor Wireless
LED Lights

**RING VIDEO
DOORBELL
\$99 - \$220**



Available at Target, Costco,
or online at shop.ring.com

Watch over your home in crystal-clear 1080 HD video, and see, hear and speak to visitors from anywhere. With instant mobile alerts and two-way talk, you can answer the door from your smartphone, tablet and PC.



**RING
FLOODLIGHT
CAM
\$200-\$250**

Available at Target, Costco,
or online at shop.ring.com

Protect your home with the world's only motion-activated security camera with built-in floodlights, a siren alarm and two-way audio, so you can see, hear and speak to anyone on your property from anywhere.

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REPORTING CRIME

How to make a call to the Sheriff's Office

HOW TO REPORT A CRIME

The Sheriff's Office offers an emergency line, non-emergency line, and an anonymous tip line to serve Humboldt County residents. It is impossible to give exact directions on when to call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number because there can be special circumstances that are unique to your situation.

Use this document as a guide when calling for service.

EMERGENCY LINE 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 for all life-threatening emergencies

- Fire
- Robbery
- Rape – call immediately or have someone call for you
- Someone forcibly trying to enter your home
- Missing child
- House broken in to but you don't know if they are still there
- Gunfire followed by screams or sounds of bullets impacting building(s)
- Someone being assaulted (including you)
- Child being abused at that moment
- Animal being abused at that moment
- Stolen car that has just been stolen
- Vehicle accident more than a fender bender

ANONYMOUS TIP LINE (707) 268-2539

NON-EMERGENCY LINE (707) 445-7251

- Home burglary
- Vehicle break-in
- Stolen property
- Suspicious person in neighborhood
- Apparent drug deal happening
- Vandalism
- Stolen car (not current)
- Graffiti
- Drug activity in neighborhood (short term stay and increased foot or vehicle traffic)
- Victim of assault
- Illegal camping (on property or in vehicle)
- Suspected child neglect or abuse
- Barking dogs
- Aggressive panhandling (blocking access or egress)
- Loud parties
- Suspected animal abuse or neglect
- Mail theft
- Any type of fraud (email, phone or mail)
- Identity theft
- All general inquiries to the Sheriff's Office
- Suspected elder abuse

HOW TO MAKE A 9-1-1 CALL FROM A CELL PHONE

Most people now call 9-1-1 from cell phones. While landlines can show dispatchers where your location is immediately, cell phones do not. The most important thing to do when you make a 9-1-1 call from a cell phone is to give your location first. Calling 9-1-1 can be stressful and intimidating. Follow these tips when calling 9-1-1:

- Stay as calm as possible
- If you are on a cell phone, give your location first. This is the most important information for the dispatcher in case the call is cut off.
- Be prepared to give your name, phone number and address or location of where you are, and a detailed description of the incident or vehicle being reported.
- Wait for the dispatcher to ask questions and then answer clearly and calmly.
- Teach your children how to make a 9-1-1 call and practice (without actually calling 9-1-1 of course). “I am at Cutten School”, or “I am at the corner of “Murray Rd and Central Ave”, or “Our car is in front of McDonald’s near Bayshore mall”, “The house right in front of me is 12 St.”, etc. If you are out and about, ask your children, “If there was an emergency, what would you tell the operator where we are right now?” It can be a game, but good practice too.
- Consider having a landline in your home if you have children or live with anyone who needs extra care, in case they have to call but are unable to actually give a description of the location. The dispatcher will know exactly where the call is coming from if it comes from a landline.

HOW TO MAKE A 9-1-1 CALL VIA TEXT

While calling 9-1-1 during an emergency is still the preferred way to ask for help, Text to 9-1-1 is a new option for contacting law enforcement and is intended to assist those who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, or anyone who cannot safely call 9-1-1 in a dangerous situation. To send a text to 9-1-1, follow the directions below:

- Enter the numbers “911” in the “To” or “Recipient” field;
- The first text to 9-1-1 should be short, include the address and the location of the emergency, and ask for police, fire or ambulance;
- Push the “Send” button;
- A dispatcher will respond to the text
- Answer questions and follow instructions from the 9-1-1 dispatcher;
- Text in simple words – no abbreviations, slang or emojis;
- Keep text messages short.

Text to 9-1-1 requires a cell phone that has the capability to send text messages, and location services must be enabled. Standard text-messaging rates apply. While currently, the texting service is only available in English, other language solutions are in development and will be implemented as soon as they become available. Similarly, the system cannot receive photos and videos at this time.

Tips on texting 9-1-1 in an emergency:

- Be sure to include clear information about the location (including city) of the emergency with the type of help needed (police, fire, or medical) in the first text message sent to 911. Emergency personnel cannot always determine your location.
- Stay on the line until the dispatcher closes the dialog, if it is safe to do so.
- Text to 9-1-1 cannot be sent to more than one person (group message). Do not send your emergency text to anyone other than 9-1-1.
- Text to 9-1-1 is not available if you are roaming.
- If Text to 9-1-1 is not available in your area, you should receive a message from the wireless carrier stating that Text to 9-1-1 is not available and that you must place a voice or relay call to 9-1-1.
- If you are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech disabled, and Text to 9-1-1 is not available, use a TTY or tele-communications relay service, if available.
- Photos and videos cannot be sent to 9-1-1.
- Don't forget to silence your phone if you don't want to be heard.
- Do not text and drive

Texting 9-1-1 should only be used in an emergency. Prank-texters can be identified and prosecuted according to local laws and regulations. The service is now available in the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County and the cities of Fortuna, Arcata, as well as HSU Police, and the California Highway Patrol. Other local cities will be launching Text to 9-1-1- capabilities soon.

NON-EMERGENCY CALLS: WHAT TO REPORT

Suspicious Person

- Why it's suspicious (behavior)
- Full description
- Direction of travel
- Weapons seen
- Do they appear under the influence of anything?

Barking Dog

- Address of dog
- Description of dog
- Time of day
- Amount of time heard barking
- Dog owner information

Fights (Heard or Seen)

- Location of fight
- Is it verbal or physical?
- How many people are involved?
- Weapons seen?
- Description of subject (names if known)

Suspicious Vehicle

- Why it's suspicious
- Description
- License Plate (or partial)
- Direction of travel
- Number of people inside

Loose Dog

- Description of dog
- Direction of travel
- Owner with dog?
- Where does dog live?
- Is the dog being vicious?

Extra Patrol Request

- Reason for request
- Area to check
- Time(s) during the day/night
- Anything particular to look for

REPORTING PUBLIC NUISANCE ISSUES

Keep a log of incidents you observe in your neighborhood or report to the Sheriff's Office (see *Public Nuisance Log worksheet at end of packet*). By recording these incidents, you have a record to back up what is happening in your community. This log can be used by law enforcement during follow up investigations.

ONLINE REPORTING HUMBOLDTSHERIFF.ORG

To report a crime or crime tip online go to:
humboldtsheriff.org

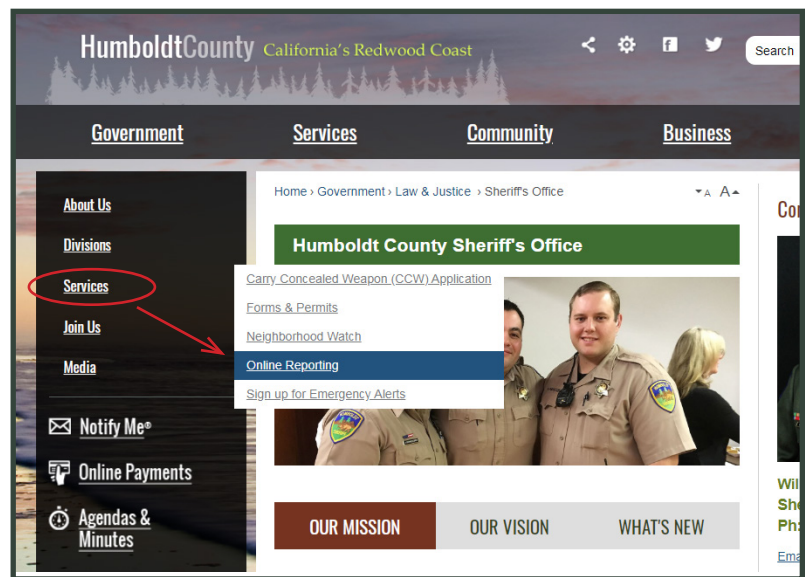
Once on the Sheriff's Office page, go to the toolbar on the left and click "Services", then "Online Reporting"

Select the appropriate form for your report, i.e. Crime Tip Form or Online Crime Report.

Online Crime Reporting Form

What to Report:

- Abandoned Vehicles
- Animal Complaint
- Barking Dog Complaint
- Fraudulent Use Of Credit Card
- Garbage Dumping
- Harassing Phone Call
- Identity Theft
- Illegal Fireworks
- Lost Property
- Public Nuisance Or Noise Complaint
- Theft
- Vandalism



Online Crime Tip Form

What to Report:

- Stolen Property Found / Ongoing Property Theft
- Suspected Drug House
- Suspicious Activity
- Transient Camps
- Ongoing Trespassing
- Suspect Information / Location
- Investigative Tips

HOW TO REGISTER HOME SECURITY CAMERAS



If you use security cameras outside your home, you could play an important role in solving crime and keeping your neighborhood safe.

How it Works:

When a crime occurs in your neighborhood, the Sheriff's Office will be able to quickly identify the locations of nearby residential video cameras that are registered with our agency. Deputies will then contact those community members for assistance to collect video evidence related to the crime that may help in the identification, arrest and prosecution of a suspect.

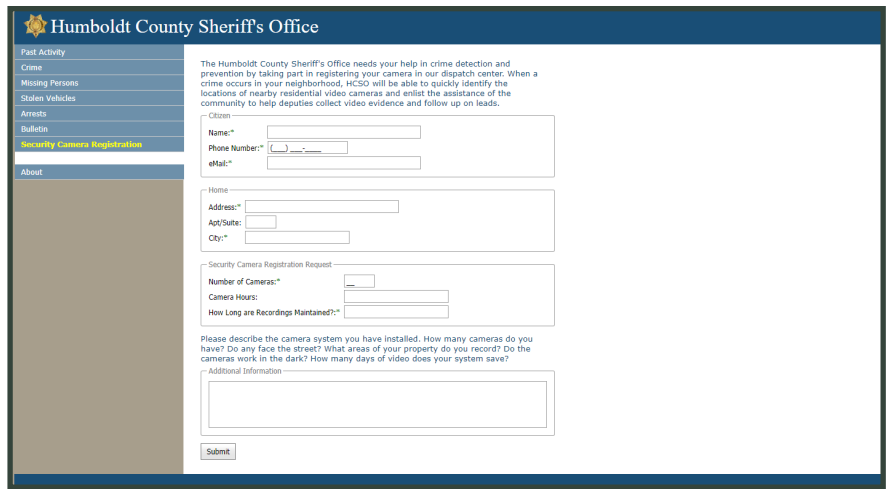
As part of this process, the Sheriff Office DOES NOT access your video surveillance remotely nor does the agency have direct access to your cameras. Deputies will only be able to access video evidence if provided by the community member. Your information will be stored in the Sheriff's Office's secure Computer Aided Dispatch System and will only be used if deputies must identify nearby security cameras to assist in the investigation of a crime. Your information will not be made public and will only be used for the purposes outlined above.

How to Register

To register a security cameras, go the Sheriff's Office's Citizen RIMS Portal at hcsso.crimegraphics.com.

Once at the portal, select the "Security Camera Registration" tab on the left-hand side of the screen. Enter the requested information and select "Submit".

If you are unable to access the Citizen RIMS Portal for any reason, you may also register your security cameras by calling the Sheriff's Office Main Station during business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 707-445-7251.



The screenshot shows the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Citizen RIMS Portal. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items: Past Activity, Crime, Missing Persons, Stolen Vehicles, Arrests, Bulletin, Security Camera Registration (highlighted), and About. The main content area features a header with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office logo and name. Below the header is a paragraph explaining the purpose of the registration: "The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office needs your help in crime detection and prevention by taking part in registering your camera in our dispatch center. When a crime occurs in your neighborhood, HCSO will be able to quickly identify the locations of nearby residential video cameras and enlist the assistance of the community to help deputies collect video evidence and follow up on leads." The form includes several input fields: Name, Phone Number, eMail, Home Address, Apt/Suite, City, Number of Cameras, Camera Hours, and How Long are Recordings Maintained. There is also a large text area for "Additional Information" and a "Submit" button at the bottom.

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VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION

Protecting Your Vehicle

In 2021, there were approximately 821 vehicles reported stolen in Humboldt County.

VEHICLE THEFT BY THE NUMBERS 2021

Arcata	135
CHP- Arcata*	269
CHP- Garberville	44
Eureka	294
Ferndale	2
Fortuna	35
HCSO	30
Rio Dell	12

TOTAL= 821

**Number includes motorcycles, trailers, ORVs, and lost or stolen plates*

A significant number of vehicles stolen out of Humboldt County are taken with their very own ignition key. This is often the result of unsuspecting victims leaving their vehicles running while unattended or leaving a spare key with the vehicle. Pre-1999 Honda and Toyota passenger cars, along with Toyota trucks, are being stolen with a similar worn key due to their worn ignition switches. A small percentage of vehicles stolen are due to the steering column being broken to the point where the ignition can be started. Approximately 80 percent of vehicles stolen out of Humboldt County are recovered, however they are usually stripped of anything valuable. Garage door openers are also stolen at the same time making victims more susceptible to future home burglaries.

Another trend of auto theft is through residential burglaries. Most of us have the habit of walking in to our home and hanging the key on a rack exposed to those who want to take our vehicles. Change the location where you store your keys and keep them out of sight. The more cautious we become, the less likely we are to become victims.

Protect yourself from becoming the victim of vehicle theft by following these easy tips:

- If you own a pre-1999 Honda or Toyota or find your ignition switches worn and loose on any vehicle, consider replacing the old ignition switch.
- Always remove all property of perceived value from the interior of your vehicle that can be seen from the outside – this includes change in the console.
- Consider adding a motion light in the area where the vehicle is parked at your residence or work place if you work after dark.
- Remove hidden keys from your vehicle.
- Never leave your car running with the keys inside, even if it is to heat up your vehicle on a cold day.
- Always lock your vehicle doors, even in your driveway, and take your keys with you.



WHAT IS A "CAR PROWL"?

Theft from vehicles, also known as car prowling, is the unlawful taking of motor vehicle contents or parts. Car prowls are crimes of opportunity. An offender makes a decision to break into a vehicle based on a perception that there are items of value in the vehicle, which makes the potential payoff worth the risk.

Car prowling is consistently one of the top three reported crimes in most cities and towns during the last five years. Although there is no profile of a typical car prowler, a large number of offenders break in to vehicles to support drug addictions. Offenders, in their peak, can break in to 15 to 20 vehicles per day at the height of their addiction. A repeat offender at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility told his counselor that it was the public's fault since they leave things in their cars.

A car prowling can be completed in a minute or less, and a significant number of these crimes occur between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Methods of entry include: entering in to the vehicle through an unlocked door, breaking a window, or using a wedge to gain access. The offender often wears a backpack or duffel bag to transport the items.

Items frequently stolen include GPS systems, laptops, electronic devices, garage door openers, CDs, mail, bills, documents with personal information, purses, wallets, luggage, gym bags, money, cell phones, insurance cards, vehicle registration, shopping bags, jackets, sleeping bags, sports equipment or instruments. The car prowls can be a gateway to identity theft, burglaries at your address and vehicle theft.

CAR PROWL PREVENTION TIPS

1

KEEP IT CLEAN

Keep the interior of your vehicle "showroom" clean. Never leave valuables in plain view. Offenders often break in to vehicles for items such as gym bags because they assume there are electronic devices or other items inside.

2

HIDE ACCESSORIES

Hide chargers and accessories that indicate a GPS, mobile phone or other devices that support electronics.

3

REMOVE KEYS

Remove garage door openers, key cards, and house or work keys from your car.

4

PARK IN THE LIGHT

Park your car in a well-lit area. Trim back trees and bushes that block the view of your vehicle from your house.

5

LOCK IT

Always lock your vehicle, even if you are home.



FACT OR MYTH?

COUNTY ASSISTANCE FOR ANIMALS



A fine example of an **URBAN MYTH** is that **ANYONE** receives additional financial assistance from Humboldt County for their animals, “service animal” or not.

From General Relief (which would be the first place a single adult would turn for financial assistance and the most likely source of support for our travelers), a person can receive vouchers for stores or a check sent directly to a landlord, and \$30 cash (which of course they can choose to spend however they like) none of which is increased by virtue of one’s status as an animal owner.

From CalFresh (the first place a family would turn and the second place a person would receive an EBT debit card that has built in limits. For example, if a person has cigarettes in their grocery cart and pays only with EBT, the cig’s won’t be covered, can’t be purchased. This is also true of alcohol, pet food, paper products, medicine, soap. It’s meant for foods the government determines are “healthy” or at least, recognizable as food (don’t get me started on chips, sodas, and other snacks...I do not know how detailed the EBT system really is). Pet food is specifically not allowed.

The federal government funds the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) programs. SSI is for adults over 65 of low income, adults who are disabled mentally or physically, or children who are disabled or blind. SSDI is an earned benefit that serves pretty much the same people but who have had a work history and who’ve paid into the program. Some of our travelers will actually have SSI/SSDI benefits, not the usual situation but not uncommon either. **AFTER MEETING SPECIFIC CRITERIA**, some folks may receive slight increases in their benefits for a service animal. The criteria **INCLUDE** a diagnosis and treatment recommendation (from an MD) that includes the service animal and a certified animal from a certified training program. Best example: dogs for the sight impaired folks. This program is likely broadening as animals have been used for a long time for conditions like epilepsy, limited mobility, hearing impairments, and so on... The process for that may happen locally, but it dips from federal funds, is cumbersome, and probably as well regulated as anything else the federal government is doing. For our purposes, a puppy on a string does not a service dog make! And of course SSI/SSDI are federal, not county, programs.

Where our residents might see the breakdown/overuse/abuse of “service animal” is when travelers insist on bringing their “service animal” into places otherwise not allowing animals. Stores, restaurants, bars, etc. In a situation of this sort that is being challenged (by the patron of the establishment for example), the law enforcement officer/deputy must follow a specific matrix to determine if the animal is indeed a service animal **AND** not a nuisance. LEAs are reasonably hampered by HIPAA and the determination of “service animal” is made broadly. Enforcement is delicate. I feel very sorry for the dogs, as most do not have shots and many die of distemper and parvo which are horrible deaths for the animals.

The general theory: most everyone likes company, and maybe (specific to this situation) particularly company that assists in the lifestyle of a traveler. Perhaps a dog/puppy captures a person’s sympathy more than what appears to be a healthy-bodied young adult who is panhandling. Maybe a dog means protection. Basically, I would say that traveler/homeless have animals for the same reason the rest of us do...makes life a little more interesting, a little easier, a little more purposeful.

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Household Emergency Information

Household name and Address: _____

Date: _____

Please use this template to share emergency contact and response information with neighbors, relatives, and friends of your choice.

Names of adults in household:

Names and ages of children in household:

Postal address: _____

Home telephone number(s): _____

Work telephone number(s): _____

Cell phone or other phone numbers where we can be reached in an emergency:

Email addresses to reach us if we are away: _____

Circle this line if: YES, we want neighbors to check on our household in a local emergency.

Circle this line if: YES, we want YOU (info recipient) to check on our household in a local emergency.

We will request Neighborhood Watch volunteers to check on our home when we notify the Neighborhood Watch coordinators that we will be traveling out of town.

Circle: Yes, always Yes, in some cases No, never

Mobility impairments or health issues for household members that neighbors, friends (and possibly emergency personnel) should be aware of in an emergency:

Name(s), phone numbers(s), and locations of local people whom neighbors should contact if we are found to need help during an emergency: _____

Name(s) and phone numbers(s) of people OUT OF THIS AREA whom neighbors or friends should contact if we are found to need help and local contacts cannot be reached or cannot help:

Circle this line if: YES, if we are away during an emergency, we want neighbors and friends to check on our home and contact us elsewhere.

If Yes, where? Phone number(s): _____

If Yes, and you cannot be reached during an emergency, *local* contacts(s) who should be able to reach you: _____

We have emergency skills that we would be willing to use to help neighbors. These include ... (examples: Medical; fire suppression; demolition; etc)

We have access to equipment that we may be willing to use (or lend) to help neighbors in an emergency. Equipment includes ... (examples: chainsaw; generator; winch; pump; satellite phone; HAM radio; solar electric hookup or charger; emergency kitchen facilities, etc)

People who have this emergency contact information for our household include (list if you wish):

Circle this line if: YES, we would like to share this emergency information with the _____ Neighborhood Watch group.

Circle this line if: YES, we would like to authorize Neighborhood Watch coordinators to share our emergency contact information with emergency personnel in case of an emergency.

Circle this line if: YES, we would like to share our emergency capability and equipment information with emergency personnel in case of an emergency.

Item

Serial Number

iPad

Cell phones(s)

iPod

Laptop

Camera(s)

Tablet(s)

Computer

Flat screen

Firearms

Other items with serial numbers

Tools (examples) Chain saws, power drills, Skill saws, any power equipment and other tools _____

Descriptions that may be helpful

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