



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Fall / Winter 2014  
Volume 19 - Issue 1



## Crime Prevention Insider

- 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>

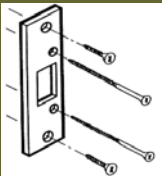
For more information  
pertaining to cyber  
safety, Ctrl-Click on  
on the links below:

<http://getnetwise.org>  
<http://netsmartz.org>

**For exterior doors:  
Single Cylinder  
Dead Bolt**



**4" Strike Plate  
3" Screws**



**Secondary Window  
Security:  
Thumb Screw Lock**



## BEWARE OF SCAMS!!

The holiday season is such a great time of year to spend with family and friends... so many fun activities...everyone is busy planning, decorating, shopping....and... the criminals are busy too... planning ways to scam people out of their hard earned money! Here are some tips to help you avoid becoming a victim:

- ❖ Do not respond to any inquiries regarding your bank or credit card accounts that you receive by phone or e-mail
- ❖ Never give out personal information or make purchases from anyone that calls you or comes to your door
- ❖ Limit personal information you post on Social Networking sites
- ❖ Make donations to those charities that you choose...do not respond to phone solicitors or requests that come through the mail
- ❖ Shred documents with personal information on them – keep this information from getting in to the hands of crooks
- ❖ Do not fall prey to those that call stating they are from the Internal Revenue Service!! IRS does not communicate via telephone

## 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**

## SCAMS THAT SPECIFICALLY TARGET SENIOR CITIZENS

**There are several scams that continue to plague our senior citizens in SLO County. Do not let yourself or a family member become victim to these schemes.**

**Grandparent Scam:** A person calls impersonating a grandchild...in some cases they may even say the correct grandchild's name...and may even sound like your grandchild. They may claim to need bail money due to being arrested in a foreign country. Then they ask for money to be "wired." Several seniors in this very county have been a victim...several thousand dollars have been lost. A new twist to this scam is the "grandchild" being involved in a traffic collision and needing to pay a fine immediately, or they will have to go to jail. There are other variations, as well.

**Verify that this is your grandchild by speaking with their parent or in some other way. Ask the caller for a phone number to call back... if they refuse to give one- it is a good sign this is a full blown scam!**

**Telemarketing/Internet Fraud:** You receive a call or e-mail from someone claiming you have won a trip or some other type of "prize." They claim in order to process your "prize" they will need a credit card or bank account number – **Keep in mind that if you did not enter a contest...you are not going to win anything! This also includes winning the Lottery!**

**Bank "Up-Date" Scam:** Another scam is receiving an e-mail or phone call that warns that your bank is going to close your account unless you update your information. Banks will **NEVER** do this! Call the phone number that you know is valid for your bank, or go in to the bank to verify that they need information.

**Never give out any personal information or account numbers to anyone, unless you have initiated the call for an on-line order to make a purchase or some other transaction.**

**Regularly monitor your bank and any other accounts you have to make sure there has not been any attempt to steal your Identity.**

**If you would like further information or a presentation regarding Senior Scams, please contact:  
Marsha Mann: 781-4483**



## CONGRATULATIONS SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S CITIZEN ACADEMY – CLASS # 31



### Sheriff's Citizen Academy (SCA)

SCA provides community members with an inside look at the Sheriff's Office 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 and application.**

***For further information regarding SAVP or SCA please contact  
Crime Prevention Specialist, Marsha Mann: 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 Office 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: 434-4290***



### SEARCH & RESCUE (SAR)

The SLO Sheriff's SAR Unit is made up of trained volunteers. Unit members provide the manpower, knowledge, and skills to conduct searches for missing people. Our SAR Unit is the largest specialized unit for the Sheriff's Office and is 100 percent volunteer effort.

**For More Information Call:**

**781-4553**



## 2014 Sheriff's Office Christmas Bike Program



SLO Sheriff's annual Christmas Bike Program is in full swing. Used bikes are refurbished by inmates housed at the Sheriff's Office Honor Farm, and given to underprivileged children in SLO County. New bikes and monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Each bike is presented with a helmet. Bike donations may be dropped off at the Sheriff's Office Honor Farm, or at any of the patrol stations. Call 781-4637 for more information.

### ***Be Cyber Safe Year Round!***

#### ***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, in many cases. 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 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.

#### ***Social Networking Tips:***

- Avoid giving out too much personal information! When you reveal that you are going away for the holidays....or other personal info...it can lead to problems!

## Friday Night Live

Board of Directors

- Friday Night Live is a non-profit youth organization in partnership with County Drug & Alcohol Services and the California Friday Night Live Partnership.
- FNL builds partnership for positive and healthy youth development which engages youth as active leaders and resources in their communities.



**FNL Board Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30!**

Interested in attending a meeting or joining the board? Please contact us at (805) 781-4289

2180 Johnson Ave., SLO, CA 93401 . (805) 781-4289 . Fax (805) 781-4287 . [www.slofnl.com](http://www.slofnl.com)

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781-4289

For More Information

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE IS A GREAT WAY FOR YOUR CHILD TO LEARN LEADERSHIP SKILLS & TO HAVE A GREAT TIME WITHOUT USING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL!**

## Rural Crime Prevention

### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, VANDALISM, THEFT, & TRESPASSING

**To report crimes in progress call 911 !!**

Many times in rural communities crimes go unreported...do not give criminals a free pass...make sure to call the SLO Sheriff's Office Dispatch @ **781-4550** to report any type of crime or suspicious activity on or in the vicinity of your residence or land.

If you discover any vandalism or notice property missing... report it immediately! If someone is trespassing on your land and you feel comfortable asking them to leave... do so...If they refuse to leave- report it immediately. If you do not feel comfortable telling them to leave...report it to dispatch. Having a good description of the trespasser, last direction of travel, and vehicle description, if that applies, is always helpful.

Post "No Trespassing Signs" at gates and along fences; three signs per mile. You can obtain no trespassing signs from the Sheriff's Office at no charge. After posting your signs, take a picture to show that trespassers have had fair warning that they are on private property. This is very important if someone is injured on your property...even though they should not have been there...to avoid liability claims.

***For more information contact: Rural Crime Prevention Specialist, Brandy Swain: 781-4578***

### Owner Applied Number



*Consider having your equipment marked with an Owner Applied Number (OAN)*

*For more information regarding this free service from the Sheriff's Office.....*

*Contact:*

*Rural Crime Prevention Specialist ,  
Brandy Swain @ 781-4578*

## HOW TO SPOIL A CRIMINAL'S DAY

NO.  
681

Help recover stolen  
agricultural equipment  
faster with an Owner  
Applied Number.



**SLO County Sheriff's  
Advisory Council**

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