

LA MESA POLICE NEWS & INFORMATION



Activity Period: September 16 through September 22, 2013 Media Contact: Lt. Matt Nicholass (619) 667-7512

Calls For Service:

Total Calls for Service: 1.352 9-1-1 Calls: 658 Officer Initiated*: 368

Arrests: 32 Citations Issued: 79

Response Times: Priority 1 Calls: 4 minutes, 21 seconds Non-Urgent Calls: 17-47 minutes

Case Highlights: According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a motor vehicle is stolen in the U.S. every 44 seconds and nearly half of these thefts are due to driver error like leaving keys in the ignition or leaving doors unlocked. Vehicle theft is a crime of opportunity. By following the simple steps below you will make your vehicle a less desirable target. Never leave your keys in the car or leave the vehicle running unattended. Close and lock all windows and doors when parking, even at home. We possible, park in well lighted areas or in a garage. Use your vehicle alarm. Install a mechanical locking device — commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars — that lock to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. If you believe your vehicle has been stolen, report it to the police department immediately. For more information on vehicle theft prevention, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 619.667.7545.

Traffic Information:

We know it's dangerous, and it makes our blood boil when we see other drivers too busy with their cell phones to bother looking at the road. Yet, it's obvious that many of us talk or text while behind the wheel anyway. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently chose eight-county regions, along with the state of Delaware, to test whether increased enforcement, public service advertising and news coverage can significantly reduce distracted driving. Smaller efforts last year seemed to work, curtailing texting by drivers by 72 percent in Hartford, Conn., and by 32 percent in Syracuse, N.Y. If you get caught in California, the ticket costs at least \$159 for a first offense and \$279 for a second offense. Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed a bill in September to raise the base fines by \$10. It shouldn't take higher fines to remind us how dear the price could be if you get into a wreck. Cell phone use is the No. 1 reason for distracted driver crashes in California, says the state Office of Traffic Safety. Texting – because it requires drivers to look, use their hands and think – is the most distracting behavior, and is also the fastest-growing, according to NHTSA. One study found that sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes away from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, creating a crash risk 23 times worse than not being distracted. It's the equivalent of driving blind at 55 mph for 100 yards. Does that seem safe in any way? Of course not. Studies have also shown that hands-free devices make little difference in lowering the risk. It would be much better for everyone if you just turn off your Smartphone when you get behind the wheel. It should be as automatic as putting on your seat belt. Let's be honest: How many texts or calls really have to be answered immediately?

Crime Prevention/Emergency Preparedness: Visit the La Mesa Police Information Booth at upcoming community events! Join or start a Neighborhood Watch program on your street, get tips on topics from personal safety to home security, or sign up for Nixle alerts at the following free events: **Oktoberfest**: Friday, October 4 – Sunday October 6, 2013, west end booth cap at Acacia and La Mesa Boulevard. Call the Crime Prevention Unit with questions at (619) 667-7545. **Senior Expo**: Thursday, October 10, 2013 from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm at the La Mesa Community Center, 4975 Memorial Drive from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Please R.S.V.P. by October 9 by calling (619) 667-1322.

Department Information:

Help solve a cold Homicide case: http://www.cityoflamesa.com/DocumentView.aspx?DID=2487

* "Officer Initiated" refers to a situation when an officer observes what is believed to be criminal activity and responds accordingly.