



SPECIAL BULLETIN

SHERIFF ALEX VILLANUEVA

“SMASH & GRAB” INCIDENTS

Public Service Announcement

Trends

◆ **Targets:**

- ◆ Large shopping centers
- ◆ High end designer retail businesses
- ◆ West side of Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley.

◆ **Suspects:**

- ◆ Concealing themselves with hoods, masks, and are wearing gloves.
- ◆ Using vehicles with no license plates or paper plates.
- ◆ Some are associated with criminal street gangs.
- ◆ Bear spray in one incident.
- ◆ Use tools to force access by breaking glass windows and display cases.

Enforcement Efforts

- ◆ Immediate investigative response.
- ◆ Increased communication with surrounding police department partners.
- ◆ Increased additional law enforcement saturation to other shopping facilities.
- ◆ Immediate response by Detective Division.
- ◆ Working with local and federal partners to identify and locate potential suspects.
- ◆ Strategy of aggressive filing for prosecutorial consideration.
- ◆ Surveillance of high priority target areas.
- ◆ Mounted and uniformed units assigned to targeted areas as a visible deterrent.
- ◆ Dedicated helicopter unit assigned to primary target areas.

Prevention Strategies

- ◆ Encourage “See something, Say Something” approach to report potential criminal activity.
- ◆ Encourage the installation of additional lighting and surveillance cameras.
- ◆ Encourage business owners to move expensive merchandise away from doors.
- ◆ Encourage business owners to work with law enforcement by sharing information about potential suspects and addressing security vulnerabilities.

Any information, please contact “Crime Stoppers” by dialing (800) 222-TIPS (8477), use your smartphone by downloading the “P3Tips” Mobile APP on Google play or the Apple App Store, or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.