

City-wide Crime Notes May 2021 from NBPD Crime Prevention

Crime numbers looked really good for May! We were down about 38% compared to May 2020 in Part 1 Crimes! And the Year-To-Date comparison between this year & last year, we're down about 15%.

Two areas that I want to bring to your attention:

Residential Burglaries: We saw residential burglaries start to creep back up in May. Many of these incidents involved forced entries where a door or window was pried open or smashed. Entries made through a second story door or window were also a trend. Here are some helpful reminders:

- o Always lock your windows and doors when you go out, even if for only a few minutes. Second story windows & doors should be secured as if they were on the first story.
- o Assess whether or not a window can be easily accessed from a tree, balcony, roof, wall, or with patio furniture and adjust your security plan accordingly. Ladders should be stored inside or locked to a stationary object.
- o Use timers on indoor lamps to give the appearance that you are home. If you're going out for the evening, leave a television or a radio on in the home.
- o If your home is equipped with an alarm, always activate it even if you're only going out for a short walk.
 - § Consider adding a motion sensor in your master bedroom/bathroom, which will activate the alarm if someone comes in through a glass window or door without opening it.
- o Always keep your front and rear porch lights on from dusk to dawn and use motion detector lighting along the sides of your home or areas with little foot traffic.
- o If you have a safe, make sure that it is properly bolted to concrete so that it cannot be easily removed.
- o Always close and lock your safe and never leave a key or combination out or in an easy to find location (i.e. office, nightstand, etc).

Garage Burglaries: Garage burglaries have made it on the list again for May. Let's continue to be diligent about keeping those garage doors closed & reminding neighbors to do the same. And for all who live in communities with parking garages – please be sure to remove everything from your car & take extra precautions to make sure your bike is secured.

JULY 4TH NOTES

Just a couple reminders as you make your plans for celebrating Independence Day:

Fireworks: FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL IN NEWPORT BEACH. This includes "safe and sane" fireworks such as fountains & sparklers that can be purchased in nearby cities. Officers will be actively looking for illegal fireworks, and violators will be cited & fireworks will be confiscated.

**To report the use of fireworks:* Call the NBPD non-emergency line (949-644-3717) only if you can provide our dispatchers with detailed information. Please let dispatchers know the exact location and a description of the person setting off the fireworks. This helps our dispatchers give officers the information they need to address these calls.

Parties: Property owners and/or party hosts are responsible for the conduct of their guests. Loud and unruly gatherings requiring a police response could result in a citation or arrest for those present, and fines for property owners, tenants, renters and guests. If you plan to host a holiday party in West Newport, please follow these guidelines:

- o Limit the number of guests invited and don't allow strangers to attend uninvited. As the host, you are ultimately responsible for the conduct of everyone in attendance.
- o Be sure that no open alcoholic beverages leave your property. Possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages or consumption of those beverages in public is illegal. This includes alcoholic beverages that have been poured into a cup or other container.
- o Ensure minors do not possess or consume alcoholic beverages while at your party.
- o Limit noise and unruly behavior. Keep music volumes low and all speakers indoors.
- o Do not allow any guests to throw water balloons or spray water at pedestrians or vehicles.
- o Ask guests to limit their travel in and out of West Newport to reduce traffic congestion.
- o Be courteous to your neighbors and take your party indoors after dark. Close doors & windows to prevent loud voices and music from disturbing others.
- o Keep outdoor lights on - it helps deter criminal activity.

BIKE SAFETY INFO/RESOURCES

We had quite a bit of discussion about bike safety during our last meeting. Here's the link to some resources about bike safety on our website: <http://www.nbpd.org/community/bike.asp>

I also know that we specifically had questions about electric bikes. So I've got another link for "Alternative Vehicles Information" that addresses some relevant laws regarding electric bikes: <http://www.nbpd.org/community/altveh.asp>

CRIME PREVENTION TOPIC: Time to Get Your Bike Registered

As we get into the summer months, I know that we'll have a lot more people hopping on their bikes to get down to the beach or just enjoy some time outdoors. Summer is usually a season where we tend to see bike thefts pick up. There are a number of things that can be done to help prevent bike thefts; for example:

1. Using a high quality lock designed for bicycles. Cable locks & other inexpensive options are easily defeated (we see this all the time).
2. Making sure you properly lock you bike - securing the frame & the wheel to something stationary.
3. Never leaving your bike outside overnight – even if it's locked. With enough time & the right tools, burglars can defeat pretty much any locking mechanism.

In addition to these things, I would highly encourage you to get your bike registered at Project529.com/newportbeach – **it's free & takes about 5 minutes!**

If your bike does end up being stolen, having it registered may be one of the only ways that we can get it back to you. Here's how it would work: You snap a couple photos of your bike & get it registered. Your bike ends up being stolen. One of our officers stops a suspicious individual with a bike. The officer runs the serial number & learns the bike belongs to you. The bike thief gets in trouble & you get your bike back!

Another great thing about Project529 is that some of our neighboring agencies in Orange County are also using this system. So, if an officer in another city finds your stolen bike, they are able to help get it back to you as well.