

BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"COMMUNICATOR"

JANUARY 2016 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Hello residents and visitors to Bernalillo County. The Sheriff's Office would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy and prosperous New Year. May your hopes, wishes, and dreams come true and

While we have undergone numerous administrative and procedural changes within the Sheriff's Department this year we look forward to working with you, our community and visitors of our county to continue to provide you with the superior service you have come to expect.

This newsletter is intended for residents and visitors of the County of Bernalillo, the Sheriff's East Area Command, North Valley Area Command, and South Valley Area Command. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep an open line of communications between you, the citizens, and us, the deputies, who are sworn to protect you and your property.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any and all your neighbors who are interested news, crime fighting tips, and communication from the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. If any person wishes to be placed on the internet e-mail distribution list please forward that request via e-mail to tgartenmayer@bernco.gov

NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND

On behalf of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to those of you who donated food, clothes, toys, and other items to our Annual Holiday food/toy box drive. Thanks to your generosity we were able to deliver over 100 boxes of food and toys to over 100 families in need during the Holiday Season. This small gesture had an overwhelming positive impact on the families we were able to help out. With your support this endeavor would not have been possible.

During the most recent snow storm between December 26th - 28th deputies responded to the following number of traffic crashes:

Crashes with injuries- 9 total (primarily on Interstate 40 near Sedillo Hill)

Crashes without injuries- 5 total (primarily on N-14 and Frost)

We would like to thank you all for your patience with our police response during periods of inclement weather. Please drive safe and heed the warnings of road conditions before making the decision to drive in adverse weather conditions.

A few residents have called the Sheriff's Office inquiring about the difference between a winter storm warning, winter storm advisory, or winter storm watch. It is important to know the difference between the warnings so you may better plan ahead and prepare for future changes in the weather.

The below information is courtesy of the National Weather Service and the American Red Cross:

Winter Storms

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind-driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.

Regardless of the severity of a winter storm, you should be prepared in order to remain safe during these events.

Know the Difference

Winter Storm Outlook - Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.

Winter Weather Advisory - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Watch - Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

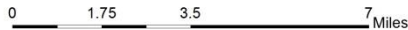
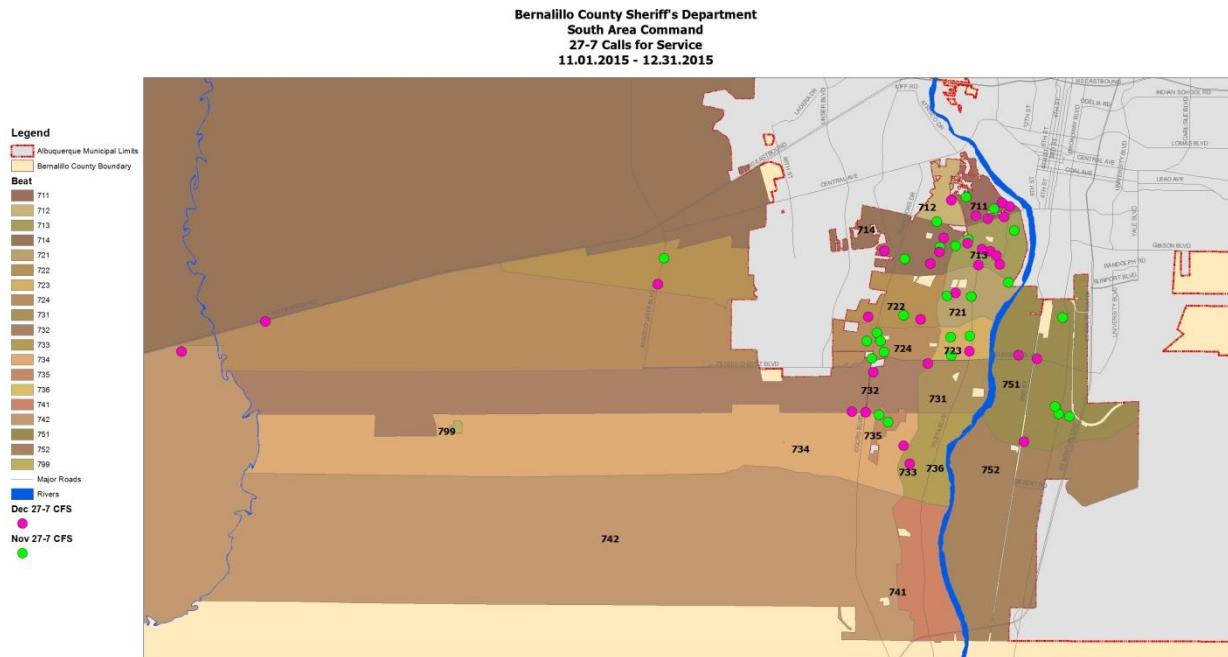
Winter Storm Warning - Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AREA COMMAND

AUTO THEFT ALERT

Residents in the South Area Command need to be warned about thieves stealing vehicles while they are warming up. It has been all over the news, to include a three year old girl that was kidnapped because her mother left her vehicle running while she filled a water bottle, only a few feet away. Luckily the little girl was found cold and crying, but safe. During the month of November 2015, the South Area Command had 32 auto thefts and in December 2015, we had 35 auto thefts. Most of the vehicles taken have been in the morning and while vehicles were warming up. It is an easy target for thieves. Please help the Sheriff's Department and never leave your vehicle running and/or unlocked.

Captain Ray Chavez
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Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department
Crime Analysis Unit
08 January 2016



Disclaimer: This information is for reference only. Bernalillo County assumes no liability for errors associated with the use of these data. Users are solely responsible for confirming accuracy when necessary. Source data from Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque.

CRIME REDUCTION AND SAFETY TIPS

Top 5 Ways to Avoid Becoming a Victim of ID Theft

Identity theft is an ever-growing problem. What follows are 5 simple steps anyone can easily take to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of identity theft.

1. Get that Social Security Card and birth certificate OUT of your wallet/purse/car: I can't stress this enough, if you're not going to get a passport or open a bank account, or process your new-hire paperwork for your next job TODAY, then why are your most sacred identity documents still floating around in your purse or wallet? I can't tell you how often the ITRC works with confirmed identity theft victims whose cases began out of a lost or stolen purse or wallet. Without an SSN or birth certificate, the theft of a wallet is a temporary inconvenience. You'll have cancel a few credit cards, maybe close a bank account or two, and get yourself a new license from the DMV. If on the other hand if either or both of those documents were inside the wallet or purse when stolen, congratulations; you'll now be at an exponentially greater risk for identity theft, and numerous other types of fraud....for the rest of your natural existence. That's not an exaggeration, once a birth certificate or SSN is compromised or exposed; there is NO perfect solution to putting humpty dumpty back together again. You've now forced yourself to become the paranoid, mildly panicky consumer you previously may have made fun of.
2. Shred Your Mail: Most consumers don't pay attention to the plethora of personal information we throw away in our discarded mail. Our mail often contains vital information that is best protected from the public. Everything from account numbers, contact information, SSN's, dates of birth, tax id numbers, all can be found in your mailed correspondence. Invest in a shredder and make sure that any document that contains sensitive personal data makes it through the cross cutters before it goes to the trash. Having a locking mailbox is also a good idea.
3. Check Your Credit Reports: I know you hear this all the time, from a thousand different places right? But do you really understand WHY checking your credit is a good idea? Think of it being similar to a financial X-ray - if you broke your ankle, you would go to the doctor to get it checked out. Chances are a medical professional knows your ankle is broken just from feeling it, but he orders the X-ray anyway. Why? Because the X-ray allows the doctor to identify precisely where the damage is, and hence the best/most appropriate remedy. A credit report is no different. It will show you if damage to your credit worthiness might exist, and may point out where the damage is coming from. Knowing that someone else is using your credit worthiness, and identifying the SOURCE of bad/fraudulent information is

obviously the first step in getting it corrected. Checking your credit is the easiest way to find out if someone else is using your financial good name to acquire benefit, at your cost.

4. Don't Send Personal Identifying Information (PII) to an Online Employer: Never give your SSN, bank account numbers, or any other personally identifying information (PII) to an employer you've never met in person. Searching online for jobs is a fast, convenient way to job search, but consumers should understand that this convenience is not without added risk. If you haven't had an in person meeting or at least a few phone conversations with your perspective employer, than why does he need your SSN? Make sure you know the organization that may be hiring you before giving any information. Job scams are a very common way for thieves to capitalize on the desperation of others, so make sure you're careful with what information you send and to whom you send it. A legitimate organization will almost always want an in-person interview before offering a job position.

5. Don't Be Lazy with Passwords: Is your password to your online bank account the same as the one to your email, which is the same as the one to your social media page, which is the same as the one to your fantasy sports team? Password laziness is a key way scammers take advantage of you. They find a way to get access to a piece of information that on its own is harmless (maybe a name and the last 4 digits of your social). This seemingly harmless info may be enough to request a password for an online banking account. Now they have access to one account. From there, if you're not serious about your password selections, you might've just made it that much easier for a thief to gain access to your entire life online. Use capital letters and numbers, and change your passwords at regular intervals.

NEWS FROM BERNALILLO COUNTY

BernCo Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture Ordinance Takes Effect Friday

– Drag Racers Subject to Vehicle Seizure –

Bernalillo County – The county's Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture Ordinance takes effect tomorrow, Jan. 8, making drag racing a criminal act that could result in on-the-spot seizure and ultimate forfeiture of the vehicle.

The new amendment declares illegal street racing or drag racing as a public nuisance that endangers the community at large. Vehicles used in these illegal activities can be taken away at the scene by law enforcement officers. An administrative hearing will determine if the vehicle was properly seized.

For second-time or greater offenders, the county will initiate proceedings to permanently take away a vehicle that was used for drag racing.

This law affects drag racing activity that occurs outside the city limits, within the unincorporated areas of Bernalillo County.

“Whether it is drinking and driving or drag racing, this ordinance can now directly address those individuals who are using their vehicles as a weapon,” says Commissioner Lonnie Talbert, sponsor of the amendment.

Vehicle owners who knowingly allow a previously arrested reckless driver to drive their vehicle may not be considered an innocent owner and could lose their vehicle.

The amendment also creates and lists criteria necessary to address specific requirements and obligations pertaining to the release of seized vehicles to lienholders.

Seized vehicles will be sold at public auction and the proceeds will be used for administering this ordinance and DWI enforcement, prevention and education.

Temporary immobilization of a vehicle using an immobilization device, or boot, is an alternative available in lieu of vehicle forfeiture. The vehicle immobilization period would be determined by the driving record and history of the offender.

The county’s Vehicle Seizure and Forfeiture Ordinance also addresses seizure and forfeiture of vehicles of DWI offenders with two or more DWIs and/or those individuals driving with a revoked license that was the result of a prior DWI conviction.

HAVE A SAFE AND LOVING START OF THE NEW YEAR; WE WILL BE FOREVER ON DUTY TO ENSURE YOU ARE SAFE AND CARED FOR.

If you would like the “Communicator” to highlight a particular area or division of our Department please forward those requests to Administrative Assistant Terri Gartenmayer at tgartenmayer@bernco.gov

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR DEPUTIES AND ONCE YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM WE ARE SURE YOU WILL BE PROUD OF THEM TOO!