

# **BERNALILLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## **"COMMUNICATOR"**

### **DECEMBER 2017 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

The year 2017 is quickly coming to an end and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is eager to begin a new year. While we have undergone numerous administrative and procedural changes within the Sheriff's Department, 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](mailto:tgartenmayer@bernco.gov)

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### **NEWS FROM THE EAST AREA COMMAND**

Winter is coming...

It's not just a tagline from Game of Thrones. It is a reality for those of us that live and work here in the East Mountains. For those that have spent a good amount of time up here, you probably already have plans in place to deal with the coming snows, but for those that may be new, or are looking for some pointers on just how to deal with the possibility of inclement weather, here are some things to consider:

- The Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department works closely with other county departments, as well as the State of New Mexico's Department of Transportation to ensure that timely salting and cindering of the major highways in the East Mountain Area

is occurring. Our deputies are tasked with consistent assessments of the Interstates, highways and major thoroughfares of our area, to provide guidance as to which roadways are in need of attention.

- While the DOT constantly works on keeping the roadways clear of snow, we all know that it is not possible for them to be everywhere at once, and the weather can often overwhelm their capability to keep up with the sheer amount of snow that we can experience. Rest assured that we are all working to get the roads cleared, and will see to problem areas as soon as possible. If you identify a particularly dangerous section of the highway, please contact us at 798-7000 and let us know.
- No one likes getting into a cold car, and it always seems like it is colder inside the vehicle than it is outside before you get the heater going. That being said, you should never leave your vehicle running while you are not in it. Car thieves look for unoccupied vehicles that are running for an easy theft.
- Drivers should allow themselves extra time to get from place to place during periods of inclement weather. Please remember, 4-wheel drive vehicles provide great traction when driving through snow, but do very little on wet or icy roads. Please do not drive in excess of your vehicle's capabilities. It is far better to arrive at your destination a bit late, as opposed to being involved in a crash. And as always, wear your seat belt.
- Consider preparing an emergency bag for your vehicle in the case you get stuck for an extended period of time. Blankets, high carb snacks, water, flashlights and portable radios are some of the things you can put in there.
- Please understand that during times of inclement weather, our response times may increase. We too must account for driving on dangerous roads, and as such, our speed going from call to call will decrease. In addition, during times of snow, we are constantly responding to calls for service involving vehicle crashes of all sorts. The department prioritizes calls for service based on severity, so please understand that if you are involved in a minor crash, you may be waiting for an extended period of time for a response. If no injuries have occurred, and the damage is minimal as a result of the crash, it may be prudent to exchange information with the other driver and call for a police report at a later time. If you choose to do this, the information you should obtain would include the other driver's name, date of birth and driver license number, as well as the license plate information from the car, and the insurance carrier information and policy number from the other driver. This information would allow a deputy to complete a crash report at a later time with little difficulty.

Hopefully these tips will help you all effectively deal with the winter weather we all know is coming.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at the East Area Command Center at 505-468-7420. Stay safe and Happy Holidays to all!

Captain Joshua Kingsbury

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## **NEWS FROM THE** **SOUTH AREA COMMAND**

As the Holidays are upon us, thieves are out in full force looking to deprive you of your possessions and Christmas/Hanukkah gifts. Here are a few tips to make you less of a target and keep safe during the holiday season:

- Do not warm up cars in your driveway on cold mornings. This is the easiest way for a would be car thief to steal your vehicle quickly. If you do need to warm up your vehicle, sit inside while you do so.
- Make sure that packages being delivered arrive while you are home and can receive them or are delivered to a secure area on your property. You can also request that the Post Office hold packages so you can pick them up at the nearest station.
- As you prepare your gifts do not leave them under a tree or out in the open. A thief can easily look inside your window and view a plethora of things to steal. Keep them hidden somewhere inside of your house out of view.
- When you unwrap all of your wonderful gifts and are getting rid of the boxes that show what was inside take these boxes to a recycling bin off of your property. Thieves will go thru your recycling or trash and learn exactly what electronics, appliances or other goodies you now have within your house. The boxes are like free window shopping for thieves.
- If you are going out of town, please call (505) 798-7000 and have your house placed on the 10-10 Watch List. This is a list dispersed to all deputies each morning listing the houses that need extra patrols. Remember to stop your mail, newspaper delivery and let you neighbors you trust know that you will be gone and exactly what cars should be at your house.
- Remember to write down the serial numbers of any new electronics, computers, TV's, etc. that you receive. In the case that these items are stolen, deputies and detectives have a better chance of getting your items back to you if we have the serial number.
- Be aware of scams during the holiday season. Many criminals will try to scam you out of money with fake campaigns for help and donations.
- When shopping, lock all valuables you have within the trunk of your car. This makes the items you have or have purchased less visible to would be thieves.
- Drive safely and with courtesy. Unfortunately, many choose to drink and drive during the holiday season. If you suspect a drunk driver is on the road, please call 911 immediately. Give the call taker the make, model, color and license plate of the car and the cross streets you are at. Do not attempt to follow the car until deputies arrive, this could put you in a dangerous situation.
- Lastly, do not post on social media websites that you are out of town or going out of town. Also, do not post gifts that you have purchased or received as this information is easily accessible by criminals.

As the temperatures drop please bring all pets inside or provide them a warm place to get out of the elements. Dog houses should be heated or at the very least have straw in them. Blankets are not enough to keep a dog or cat warm outside when the temperature drops.

The holidays can bring upon severe depression or anxiety for many people. If anyone you know states that they are planning on hurting themselves, talk of suicide or make a statement that worries you please do not hesitate to call 911. All deputies are trained in Crisis Intervention techniques and can quickly get people the help they desperately need.

Our deputies and detectives have been active in solving home and business burglaries as of late! They have worked as a team to recover thousands of dollars of stolen property and arrest the offenders. Our Auto Theft detectives have also been highly effective in recovering stolen vehicles within hours of the vehicle being stolen. Dozens of arrests have been made in the South Valley area of chronic car thieves and burglars.

Want to show a deputy how much you care during the holidays? Simply walk up to them and shake their hand or tell them you appreciate them. This means more to us than we can ever fully express. Knowing the citizens, we serve appreciate us brings joy to our days.

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## **GENERAL DEPARTMENT NEWS**

The BCSO is currently involved with several non-profit organizations to provide food baskets and gifts to families and children in need during this upcoming holiday season. If you would like to donate money, clothes, children's gifts, or non-perishable food please contact Administrative Assistant Josette Duran at 505-468-1363.

Any donation can be made at any of our three (3) sub-station. If you choose to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to the 10-82 fund, which a 501 (3c) non-profit and donations are tax deductible. All donations are welcome and appreciated.

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Local area Costco Wholesale donated sixty (60) turkeys for our annual BCSO Holiday food basket program. We would like to thank Costco Wholesale and their staff for the generosity showed to families in need during the Holiday Season.



# **GENERAL SAFETY/ CRIME REDUCTION TIPS**

During the Holiday season calls for service involving reports of theft, burglaries, domestic violence, and DWI usually increase. We would like to remind each of you to celebrate this season safely. If you are going to attend holiday parties please designate a sober driver prior to drinking and or utilize the “safe ride” program to avoid the embarrassment of arrest and **MOST** importantly save a life.

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## **TIPS TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF BURGLARIES**

**The best way to protect yourself, your family, your home and your valuables against a burglary is to take preventative measures. Here are a few tips that may help keep your property safe and secure.**

- Make sure you have deadbolt locks on all external doors. Sliding doors can be secured with a dowel in the inside track to jam the door.
- Make sure all windows are secured with locks or pins.
- DO NOT hide keys around the outside of your home. Keep an extra key with a trusted neighbor or friend in case you are ever locked out.
- Outside lights make excellent deterrents for burglars.
- Make sure shrubs and trees do not block windows or doors. These can be excellent hiding places for burglars.
- Clean the cartilage of your home. Evidence such as footprint can more easily be found if you are a victim of a burglary
- Make sure valuables, such as TVs, stereos, computers, jewelry, etc., are not visible from the street. Don't entice the crooks.
- Teach your children to refrain from speaking of the contents of your home with strangers.
- Change your routine. Leave for work earlier, or come home for a lunch break if possible.
- Get to know your neighbors. They can keep a vigilant eye for any suspicious activity in the neighborhood.

### **If traveling:**

- Don't post your travel plans on social networks. Criminals use these sites to look for potential victims.
- Leave shade, blinds, and curtains in normal positions to maintain the appearance that someone is home.
- Invest in light timers, especially for outdoor lights.
- Have someone pick up your mail
- Notify the Sheriff's Department at 505-798-7000 to request your residence be placed on a welfare check.

### **After you open your gifts:**

- DO NOT place empty boxes which contained high priced and easily “fenced” gifts in plain sight outside your home.
- If possible take these boxes to the nearest recycling facility or the city refuse department yourself
- Break down boxes to make it more difficult for potential thieves to know what new items are in your home
- Wait until “trash day” prior to placing trash from received gifts at the curb.

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HAVE A SAFE AND LOVING HOLIDAY SEASON; WE WILL BE FOREVER ON DUTY TO ENSURE YOU ARE SAFE AND CARED FOR.

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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](mailto:tgartenmayer@bernco.gov)

