



**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
RURAL CRIME UNIT**

1585 Kansas Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
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Sheriff's Dispatch (805) 781-4550

****RURAL CRIME ALERT BULLETIN****

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San Luis Obispo County has had a number of thefts from metal shops and outbuildings in rural areas of the county since June of this year. The losses from these thefts total over \$150,000 in stolen property. These thefts are currently under investigation and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office is not commenting on any evidence or suspect information at this time. However, the SLO County Sheriff's Office would like to pass along some important crime prevention tips that may reduce your chances of becoming victimized.

- Shops and out buildings that are being targeted are in rural/remote areas. These incidents occur during night time hours. Because of this, it is recommended that you consider Motion Sensor lighting around the entire perimeter of the shops and out buildings, in an effort to deter any suspects.
- An audible alarm system is also recommended.
- Installing digital security cameras/video systems in non-visible locations. The higher pixel cameras provide a higher quality and clearer photo/video. A 40 pixel camera/video system is recommended. With quality footage it is more likely the suspects will be identified from this footage. Most of these cameras and alarms can be synced to your Smart phones for activation on or off sight.
- Make sure that you are recording and filing **serial numbers** of your property in a safe location. Of the hundreds of pieces of equipment stolen, only 4 items had serial numbers that the victims could provide to Law Enforcement. We cannot positively identify stolen property without proof of ownership and the serial number provides this proof. Some owner's manuals contain the serial number of the item, along with the make and model numbers. Make sure this is filed in a safe place so it can be provided to Law Enforcement should you be a victim of a theft.
- The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office recommends marking equipment and tools with an Owner Applied Number, also known as an OAN. None of the current victim's reported having an OAN on any of the stolen items. For further

information on obtaining an OAN number, contact **Brandy Swain** at 781-4578.

Recognizing suspicious activity:

- It is believed that these properties may have been previously cased before the crime was committed. If you notice an unfamiliar vehicle in the area, write down the License Plate Number. The make and model of the vehicle is important also, but the License Plate number provides law enforcement with the most information. Report this License Plate number to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office at 781-4550. Let the dispatcher know what you saw, what time it was seen and why you think it is suspicious.
- Be mindful of barking dogs. If you hear something suspicious, or something seems out of place on your property, call us right away at 781-4550. Call 911 immediately if it is an emergency.

Equipment Stolen:

- Landscaping tools, power tools, generators, welding equipment, plasma cutters, and chain saws.
- No heavy equipment such as tractors has been reported stolen in our county, how ever neighboring counties have had reports of stolen tractors.

For further information, please contact our Rural Crime Prevention Specialist,
Brandy Swain at: (805) 781-4578