



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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February 1, 2012

Safe and Secure Storage of Firearms is Your Responsibility

Firearms are generally used by responsible law abiding citizens for hunting, sport, and protection purposes; however if they are stolen or accessible to children they can cause irreversible damage. During the months of October through December, 2011, the Los Banos Police Department took 14 reports of firearms stolen from vehicles and residents. The firearms stolen included handguns, rifles and shotguns.

Two of the reports indicated that the firearms were being stored inside the victim's vehicles when they were stolen, and two reports indicated the firearms were stored in a backyard shed or garage. In all other cases, the firearms were stolen during residential burglaries and were not secured inside a safe.

“We would like everyone to consider the damage their guns could cause to the public and law enforcement, if they were to end up in the wrong hands. Firearms should never be stored inside vehicles, they should be impossible for children to get their hands on, and the safest place for a gun not in your immediate control is in a safe.”

-Ray Reyna, Administrative Commander

“Anytime a firearm is stolen from its owner I often wonder where it will turn up; and though I know no one wants their property stolen we often become complacent and we take for granted the illegal value of a firearm. I think we also forget that in the wrong hands a firearm is a very destructive device capable of terrible harm. It is the responsibility of every firearm owner to take appropriate steps to reduce the likelihood their weapons will be lost or stolen.”

-Gary Brizzee, Chief of Police

To help further educate and inform the residents of our community, in the coming months the Police Department will be partnering with the Los Banos Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to offer an event to showcase the products and services local businesses have to offer to make you, your home, your place of business and your vehicle safer.

To leave an anonymous crime tip call **209-827-7070 Ext. 288**. If you have access to a computer and the internet you can also leave an anonymous tip at the Police Departments web page at www.losbanos.org. At the bottom of the "Contact" page simply click on the "report graffiti and other crime" link or visit the Merced Area Crime Stoppers by telephone at 1-855-725-2420, or at www.mercedareacrimestoppers.org

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