



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93009

- **BOB BROOKS**  
SHERIFF
- **CRAIG HUSBAND**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION

Absent an eyewitness, some of the most valuable information available in the investigation of a crime, is the evidence left at the scene by the suspect. It is this evidence which, when corroborated by further investigation, places a specific person in a specific place at a specific time. Investigators will concentrate their efforts at the crime scene in hopes of locating this evidence.

There are certain measures that can be taken in order for you to protect these crime scenes before the arrival of investigators, thus, increasing the possibility of a future arrest and conviction. Additionally, there are certain things that will hamper the chances of a successful prosecution.

### DO:

- When a crime is discovered, notify the Sheriff's Department as soon as possible!
- Preserve the immediate area around the visible crime scene.
- Keep employees, livestock and equipment from contaminating the area.
- Obtain names, addresses and telephone numbers of potential witnesses if they will not be present when Law Enforcement arrives.

### DON'T:

- Search the crime scene for evidence such as foot prints, containers, etc.
- Move any item of evidence; Leave it in place as you found it.
- Allow others into the area.

## GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING CRIMES

If you observe a crime in progress:

- Call the Sheriff's Department Immediately at **911**.
- Be a good witness.
- Note suspect descriptions such as age, height, weight, facial hair, clothing and shoe type. If a vehicle is involved, obtain a license number and note vehicle color, body damage, bumper stickers, camper shell, after market tires and wheels, etc.

If the crime has already occurred:

- Call the Sheriff's Department as soon as possible at **654-9511**.
- Secure the crime scene as described above.



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## AGRICULTURAL CRIMES UNIT

### CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

#### 1. PERIMETER:

- Maintain all fences and keep gates locked.
- Post "No Trespassing Signs" (3 per mile and at entrances to property).
- Make sure your Address and Owner-Applied Number sign are clearly visible.

#### 2. BUILDING SECURITY:

- Secure and Lock all windows and doors.
- Install Motion detector lights.
- Install Security alarms.

#### 3. CENTRAL WORK AREAS:

- Secure all equipment, including vehicles, and store in a visible, well lit area.
- Be aware of and report suspicious persons and vehicles to local Law Enforcement.
- Frequently patrol your property.

#### 4. EMPLOYEES AND NEIGHBORS:

- Know your employees, provide them with I.D. cards and educate them about Crime Prevention.
- Limit employee access to buildings, equipment, chemicals and other valuables.
- Know your neighbors and encourage them to report suspicious activities.

#### 5. MARK ALL VALUABLE PROPERTY WITH YOUR OWNER APPLIED NUMBER.

#### 6. REPORT ALL CRIMES TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.