

**Overview of Senior Services
Provided by the Fresno Police Department**

The Fresno Police Department has been participating with the City Managers Senior Rebranding Committee since its inception. Representatives from the Special Operations Division provide the following information to Bruce Rudd and Kelly Riddle to demonstrate the efforts of the Department in promoting a safe environment for our senior community as well as coordinating this effort with other Departments and Divisions within the City of Fresno. The following is an overview of the Department's Elder Abuse & Dependent Care Unit as well as other programs provided for our senior community.

Elder Abuse & Dependent Care Unit

The Community Service Officer assigned to this unit works primarily in community outreach, education and crime prevention as it relates to Elder Abuse and Dependant Adults.

Public Education includes:

- 1) Crime Prevention education to area seniors and senior care providers regarding information that helps reduce victimization within the community of those 65 years and older and dependant adults age 18 years and older.
- 2) Promote senior awareness issues to the general public
- 3) Provide Crime Prevention programs to senior living centers and assisted living facilities
- 4) Public education regarding elder abuse prevention and awareness to church groups, and other social/civic organizations.
- 5) Assist Elder Abuse detectives with investigative follow-up assignments:
 - a) booking evidence
 - b) check the welfare of victim
 - c) Adult protective services assists
 - d) Follow-up reports
- 6) As per the Chief of Police – contact the vast majority of senior crime victims within the City of Fresno, in person, via telephone or via written correspondence
- 7) Coordinate Senior Community Outreach Events:
 - a) Senior Resource Faire
 - b) Senior Christmas presents
 - c) Informational booths
 - d) Senior Health Fairs
- 8) Conduct Home Security Inspections

City of Fresno Police Department Senior Community Programs

March 10, 2009

- 9) Implement new ways to share crime prevention information to the community:
 - a) Fig Garden Village – Senior Day Informational Forum
 - b) Used Cellular Phone Distribution at Silvercrest Residence
 - c) Senior Resource Faire at the Senior Resource Center

- 10) Participate with Community Partners regarding Senior Issues
 - a) T.R.I.A.D. (a community partnership of : Fresno County Law Enforcement, Fresno Madera Area Agency on Aging, Seniors and Senior Service Providers
 - b) Adult Protective Services
 - c) American Blind Veterans
 - d) Stroke Support Group
 - e) Elder Abuse Roundtable
 - f) American Disabled Association
 - g) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association

- 11) Adult Protective Service referrals

Citizens on Patrol

The Police Department trains and utilizes citizen volunteers, known as Citizens on Patrol (COP's). These COPS go through a training program and field training component, then assigned to one of the 5 policing districts. COPS provide a valuable, non-enforcement service which augments the patrol function. Although primarily directed by the District Commander, many utilize COPS to conduct non emergency welfare checks on seniors that are bed ridden or infirmed in their homes, vacation checks, and other services that patrol officers would like to perform, but cannot because of emergency calls for police services. Many of our COPS themselves are senior citizens or retired persons who also act as ambassadors for the City of Fresno.

Elder Abuse Investigations

Two detectives, one Senior Community Service Officer (Crime Prevention Specialist) are assigned to this unit located at 2025 E. Dakota, the Old Sierra Hospital now called the Senior Resource Center. These two detectives are the primary investigators in crimes committed against persons sixty five years of age or older and dependant adults. These crimes include but are not limited to financial/fiduciary, sexual, physical, emotional, neglect, abandonment/isolation and self-neglect. These detectives work in conjunction with, (but not are limited) to the District Attorney's Office, Public Guardians Office, Adult Protective Services, Fresno County Sheriff's Department - Elder Abuse Unit, Fresno County Ombudsman's Office and financial intuitions.

Presentations include:

- Scams, Fraud
- Personal Safety
- Elder Abuse
- Telemarketing Fraud
- Domestic Violence
- Mandated Reporting
- Property Security
- Identity Theft

**City of Fresno Police Department Senior
Community Programs**

March 10, 2009

ELDER ABUSE 2008 STATS

Cases Assigned: 334
Cases Closed: 187

ELDER ABUSE UNIT DETAILED STATS JANUARY 2009

In Custody Cases Submitted: 3
Warrant Requests: 0

	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Current Active</u>
Det. L. Flores	12	3	1	0	40
Det. R. Holguin	19	2	4	0	15
Sgt. M.Landon (Parenti)	6	4	1	0	23
Totals:	37	9	6	0	78

ELDER ABUSE UNIT DETAILED STATS FEBRUARY 2009

In Custody Cases Submitted: 4
Warrant Requests: 4

	<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Cleared</u>	<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Current Active</u>
Det. L. Flores	10	5	7	1	40
Det. R. Holguin	13	4	8	0	14
Sgt. M.Landon	3	1	3	0	22 (Parenti)
Totals:	26	10	18	1	76

Summary of 2009 Significant Cases

On 01-05-09, an 84 year old woman was going to lunch at the Hometown Buffett on Blackstone near Manchester Center. She was approached by a suspicious male and female in the parking lot who asked her for a ride. The victim refused. The victim continued into the restaurant and she noticed that the male and female also entered. At one point the victim left her purse unattended and found that it was missing later. She did not see who took it. The victim immediately went to her bank to advise them of her stolen checkbook. The bank discovered that a female suspect already cashed a check near River Park for over \$900. Later investigation revealed that the suspect made the check out to herself. The victim was able to identify the suspect from a bank surveillance video. Det. Flores was assigned to this case and discovered that the female was arrested on another case. Det. Flores forwarded this case to the District Attorney's Office for additional charges against the female and the male suspect.

City of Fresno Police Department Senior Community Programs

March 10, 2009

A 70 year old woman discovered a loss of money from her checking account. Detective Flores was assigned to the case. The total loss was over \$3000. Bank surveillance photos were obtained and the victim was able to identify the suspect as her 25 year old grandson. The grandson's whereabouts are currently unknown. This case was submitted for a warrant.

Roof Repair Scam

4 Cases

Det. Holguin is assigned to this series. Suspects were targeting mobile home parks in Northeast and Northwest. The victims ranged in age from 72 to 90. 2 or 3 suspects would advise that they were there to inspect or repair the leaky roof. While inside, one suspect would distract the victim while the others would take, cash, credit cards, wallets and jewelry. Robbery Detectives also have two home invasion robberies that resemble this series and have identified leads in conjunction with FSO cases. Det. Holguin is continuing to investigate.

Groups of "Travelers" have been popping up in Fresno recently. They have been known in the past for various scams, such as Paving Scams, Roof Scams and other repair scams. On 02-25-09, Det. Flores received a tip that there was such a group replacing asphalt at a business in Central Fresno. Detective Flores and Detective Holguin responded and detained 8 people working on a small parking lot. They were identified as being out of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Law Enforcement were contacted and familiar. Wisconsin advised that with their presence we might notice other crimes occurring. Detectives identified the members of the group and cited the business owner for a Labor Code Violation (misdemeanor).

2 Cases

During November and December of 2008, the Elder Abuse Unit identified a series of car accident scams. Suspects were targeting senior citizens (one victim was 97 years old). Suspects were flagging the victims down in parking lots or roadways, placing black mascara on the victims' car and claiming that the victim hit their black SUV. The suspects were scaring the victims into writing checks for the damages for \$1000 or more. Det. Thao Xiong was assigned to the series. Through a long and complex investigation, he was able to identify a suspect who subsequently took these checks to the bank (on two cases) and used his own identity to cash the check. This suspect is not from Fresno, but has been known to travel throughout Nevada and Arizona (Niles Mitchell 23 years old). The suspect is no believed to be in Fresno at this time. Det. Xiong submitted the case to the District Attorney's Office and they have indicated that Felony Elder Abuse and Check charges will be filed. We are expecting a warrant to be issued shortly.

CSO McALISTER

In addition to CSO McAlister's normal speaking engagements for the month, she has been preparing for the Month of March. During the month of March, McAlister will be speaking at a Senior Safety event on a Sunday at People's Church. She will also be providing an interview on a local Hmong radio station about Senior Safety and she will be a guest on a ComCast Cable television community talk show to address Senior Safety. McAlister spoke at a town hall meeting in March at the Ted C. Wills center

City of Fresno Police Department Senior Community Programs

March 10, 2009

where 300 people attended. During the month of February, McAlister worked with PAL in order to apply for a \$15,000 grant from MET LIFE in order to enhance Senior Safety. McAlister continues to work with individual crime victims and also assists the Elder Abuse Detectives with some tasks at times.

January 2009 Fresno Police Department Event:

In late January, the Special Operations Division took the lead on a Saturday event held at the Senior Citizen's Village located at 1918 South Chestnut. This location has over 700 independent living units for Senior Citizens. The event used a 3-prong approach to ensure that each senior in the complex was contacted, or information was left.

The event was focused on increasing the safety and perception of safety for Seniors. To accomplish this, more than 100 volunteers from organizations such as FMAAA, Citizens police Academy Alumni; Community Emergency Response Teams; Americorp volunteers and others received training in Elder crime and safety issues, then went door-to-door in the complex to make contact with the residents of the Senior Citizens Village.

The other service provided was an offer to conduct safety inspections for the apartments in the village. A crime prevention specialist compiled a list of those seniors and has been setting appointments and conducting inspections since the event. Window and door security, fraud prevention and individual safety are all discussed during these inspections. The property manager was also given hardware to do installations where security locks for doors and windows were deemed necessary. This hardware was funded through the Fresno Police Chiefs Foundation.

Also during the event, several crime prevention seminars were presented including individual safety, financial crimes, and elder abuse topics. These seminars were well attended and offered by detectives and crime prevention specialists within the agency.

Finally, a Crime Fair was put together in the Community Center allowing seniors to find out specific information on senior resources and programs, crime prevention information and private organizations that can provide services for seniors. In addition officers were on hand to take follow up information for those seniors that had been victims of crime, or needed to report a crime.

Upcoming Events:

April 21, 2009

Contact has been made with Charlie Brewer (the manager of Kings View Estates at Annadale and Martin Luther King Boulevard) and he is agreeable in having a safety event, coordinating the senior residents along with the residents who live in the perimeter housing units at this location; for one large presentation. Tuesday, April 21 at 6:00pm is the chosen date and time, but we are waiting to hear if this also works for your schedule before confirmation. This will be more of a saturation effort like the January Senior Citizens Village Event.