

# Fresno County Sheriff's Department Northeast Field Services Bureau



## Lincoln 21 Vehicle Burglary Project

Richard Pierce  
Sheriff

# Vehicle Burglary Project - Summary

Fresno County Sheriff's Department — Northeast Field Services Bureau

*The Problem:* Northeast Field Services Bureau encompasses the greater Fresno metropolitan area. During the period from January 1, 1999 to June 21, 2000 there were 828 vehicle burglaries countywide. 536 of those occurred within the area of responsibility of the Northeast Field Services Bureau. 163 of those vehicle burglaries occurred within the L21 beat. The L21 beat accounted for 31% of all vehicle burglaries countywide. The problem was the high rate of vehicle burglaries plaguing the Lincoln 21 (L21) beat.

*Methods:* Vehicle burglary statistics were tracked for the L21 beat. A single zone within the beat was selected for study. Victims of vehicle burglaries within that zone were interviewed to determine whether their habits might have contributed to the burglaries. The victims were also interviewed to determine their attitudes regarding the thefts. Related crime-reports and suspect interviews were reviewed. The environment in which the crimes were committed was researched. Based on the research we believed the thefts were crimes of opportunity. The victims were leaving their property in their vehicles where it was visible. Our research also revealed an apathy or unwillingness of the residents to protect their personal property.

*Results:* A target area within the L21 beat was selected. Deputies assigned to Operation Safe Streets (OSS) used four areas of response, utilizing several units within the Northeast Field Services Bureau.

- An information flyer was distributed door to door by Operation Safe Street Deputies, Detectives, Community Service Officers, Explorers, citizen volunteers, and the Area Commander.
- Property detectives provided a PowerPoint presentation at town hall meetings.
- Deputy Sheriff's responded and handled all vehicle burglaries in target area instead of telephonic reports.
- Community Service Officers canvassed the area of any reported vehicle

burglaries within 48 hours in target area and reminded neighbors of prevention techniques.

Three additional target areas within the L21 beat were selected.

Between 01-01-99 and 07-31-00 there were 48 vehicle burglaries in the target areas.

Between 08-01-00 and 02-28-02 there were 15 vehicle burglaries in the target areas.

A side result was a 41.18 percent reduction of residential burglaries in the same target areas.

Community meetings and neighborhood watch groups were revitalized.

Community groups took an active role in preventing crime in their community.

# Vehicle Burglary Project

Fresno County Sheriffs Department - Northeast Field Services Bureau

## Scanning

Fresno County is 6000 square miles located in central California. The Sheriff's Department services over 200,000 people living in a wide range of communities, from open farmland to the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. Northeast Field Services Bureau of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department encompasses the greater Fresno metropolitan area. Within that area is the Lincoln 21 (L21) beat. The L21 beat is about 4 miles square. Middle to upper income homes, good schools and up scale shopping are some of the areas notable advantages.

The problem was the high rate of vehicle burglaries plaguing the L21 beat. Area property detectives were notified by crime analysis that an excessive amount of vehicle burglary crime patterns were opening up in the L21 beat. A crime pattern is opened when at least 3 property crimes occur within a specific geographic area or zone, within a 14-day period. A related arrest, inactivity, or displacement closes a crime pattern.

The Northeast Fields Services Bureau Property Detectives working with the Northeast Field Services Bureau Operation Safe Street Team (OSS) held a meeting to discuss the vehicle burglary problem. All the deputies discussing this issue were aware that historically this area had always been plagued with property related crimes. Property Detectives and OSS Deputies working as a team believed traditional methods of enforcement had not solved this problem in the past and would not solve it in the future. The team believed that any positive impact on this problem would also have a positive influence on other property-related crimes in the area. The team believed if the community took ownership of their neighborhood the problem would be greatly reduced. The end result would be a reduction in property loss; reduced calls for service regarding vehicle burglaries and a renewed relationship between the community and the Sheriff's

Department. It was decided that the vehicle burglary problem needed to be attacked using the COPPS philosophy.

Due to the size and diversity of the L21 Beat a single zone was selected for study and observation. Reported vehicle burglaries were targeted.

### *Analysis*

During the period from January 1, 1999 to June 21, 2000 there were 828 vehicle burglaries countywide. 536 of those burglaries occurred in Northeast Field Services Bureau. 163 of those burglaries in the L21 beat. During the same eighteen-month period there were forty-four vehicle burglary patterns countywide. Thirty-four of those patterns occurred in Northeast Field Services Bureau and fourteen of those occurred in the L21 beat. The L21 beat accounted for over 31% of all vehicle burglary crime patterns county wide, and 41 % of all vehicle burglary crime patterns in Northeast Field Services Bureau. Only one of those fourteen-vehicle burglary patterns in the L21 beat was closed by arrest during this eighteen-month period.

Upon reviewing the initial statistics of vehicle burglaries by zone, Zone 1554 was selected as the target area. Bullard Ave. borders this zone on the north. Barstow Ave. on the south, Maroa Ave. on the east, and Palm Ave. on the west. Zone 1554 had the second highest activity in the L21 beat scoring sixteen burglaries within the eighteen-month period. The highest Fresno City zone, Zone 1954, had nineteen burglaries during the same period.

Northeast Field Services Bureau Property Detectives uncovered a prevailing attitude among young offenders while conducting interviews over the years. These offenders felt the residents of the L21 beat were affluent and able to afford any loss they might sustain as a result of the vehicle burglary. There was a common belief among the offenders that insurance companies would cover any financial loss sustained by the victim. Their perception was that the loss was easily absorbed due to the victim's socioeconomic status. Interviews with victims revealed that they believed the losses were more of an annoyance. The victims believed that their insurance companies would cover their losses. They failed

to account for their lost time from work. For example, taking their car to and from the repair shop, and time spent replacing lost items. Victims also failed to account for the expense of their insurance deductibles. The sixteen vehicle burglaries in zone 1554 accounted for an average property loss valued of \$661.12. The average out of pocket expense to the victims was \$247.50. The victims on average would lose one day without their vehicle.

A statistical analysis of the vehicle burglaries was conducted in the L21 beat. The Fresno County Sheriffs Department Crime Analysis Unit found that the primary time of occurrence was from 2300 hours to 0500 hours. The primary days of occurrence were Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. When looking at the number of vehicle burglaries for the L21 beat by the month of the year, there was a high preference for the months of March, April, and May. During this eighteen-month period, the month of March had twenty-nine vehicle burglaries, April had thirty-eight vehicle burglaries, and May had twenty-one vehicle burglaries.

During the eighteen month period only one of the fourteen crime patterns in the L21 beat was closed by arrest. The team realized that the suspects committing these crimes were not being arrested. The team decided to look at the environment in which the suspects committed their crimes. The team physically looked at the victim's premises and reviewed the crime reports to assess the victims' activities and habits. OSS team members videotaped each victim's residence, which included the approaches to and from each victim location.

The sixteen locations in the target zone were analyzed for commonalties in description of locations and victim behavior. Information was found for only fifteen of the locations. All but two of the vehicle burglaries occurred in the victim's driveway. One vehicle burglary occurred in a carport and the other location was not specifically given. Four of the locations had motion sensor lights and an additional six had lighting near their driveways. Four of the victims had vehicle burglar alarms. Three of the alarms were activated and the fourth alarm was claimed to have been disarmed. In addition, there were

three victims who had vehicle alarms, but did not have them in use the night of the burglary.

The preferred method of entry into the vehicles was window smashes. Only three vehicle burglaries in the target zone had a different means of entry. Two vehicles were entered by prying the window, and a third was accessed via the alleged use of a "Slim Jim". The vehicles were left in low-lighted areas, which allowed for easy concealment.

Property taken from the vehicles included cellular telephones, binoculars, cameras, credit cards, car stereos, tools, a laptop computer, and currency. Property removed was visible to the suspects from outside the vehicles.

The method of entry and type of property taken suggested a lack of sophistication and the desire for a quick "score". This pointed towards juveniles or young adults being responsible for these crimes. Based on interviews of suspects and reviewing crime reports it was apparent that several of the vehicle burglaries were crimes of opportunity.

The vehicle burglaries were primarily occurring during the nighttime hours. The suspects were using the darkness to aid in concealing their activity and to avoid detection.

Vegetation surrounding the victim locations also aided in concealing their crimes. The unincorporated areas of Fresno County have no streetlights and ambient light is very minimal. These factors coupled with the amount of time it takes to target a vehicle, smash the window, and remove the property results in a minimal amount of exposure by the suspects and greatly reduces the risk of being caught.

A plot map of the vehicle burglaries places Bullard High School near the geographical center of the vehicle burglaries. The team examined the possible relationship between students attending Bullard High School and the vehicle burglaries.

While looking at all of the above information, several questions came to mind that needed to be answered. Was there a correlation between the primary theft days of Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday and school activities? Second, are the suspects students of Bullard High School, or are they on home studies or continuation school? A corollary question to this would be why March, April, and May were the highest months of activity? Is the rise in

activity due to seasonal changes, or is there some change in the schedules of the juveniles that makes this a more feasible time of year to engage in this activity? Team members could find no correlation between the vehicle burglaries and the days of the week or months of the year. No further correlation was found between those days of the week, months of the year. or Bullard High Schools activities. The only vehicle burglary suspect arrested in the L21 beat had no link to the high school.

The team looked to the other two legs of the crime triangle to see where an impact could be made. Using techniques for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, the locations could be altered so as to be less attractive to the criminal element. Increased lighting around the driveway and reduction of vegetation could help to make a residence less attractive for criminals. This solution was heavily dependent upon the cooperation of the citizenry to implement these concepts into their own homes.

The team reviewed the study published in 1988 by Nee and Taylor. It notes four categories of cues that experienced residential burglars' use in choosing targets:

Occupancy cues, such as letters or newspapers visible in the mailbox, motor

Vehicles present, windows, blinds, and curtains shut or open.

Wealth cues, such as the appearance of the house, the neighborhood, the quality the landscaping, the make of car driven, and visible furnishings.

Layout cues, such as how easy it would be to gain access into the house or building, as well as escape.

Security cues, such as alarm systems, window locks, and deadbolt locks.

The information from the above study further validated the fact that locations could be altered to present a less enticing location to thieves. By increasing lighting and reducing vegetation, the layout of the residence is altered to make it more difficult to approach, and remain undetected. The addition of vehicle security alarms would also add to the deterrent effect of the location. The teams knew wealth cues would always be present; however, by altering victim behavior this could be influenced as well as the occupancy cues.

The time and manner in which these crimes were occurring emphasizes the offender's desire to conceal his crime and to avoid confrontation with his victims and potential witnesses. By altering the environment and creating a more difficult target, the offender would move on to easier targets.

The victims could also be impacted to a degree. By changing their behavior and thinking, they could help make themselves a "harder" target. To make the changes come to pass, the community would have to be united, actuated by their common interest in the preservation of their property.

The consensus of the teams was that lighting and vegetation played secondary roles in the crimes. The teams believed there were two primary factors. The citizens were leaving their property in their vehicles where it was visible, providing an environment conducive to crimes of opportunity. Secondly was the apparent unwillingness or apathy of residents regarding protecting themselves from property crimes.

The question was then posed as to how to garner the support of the community to make themselves harder targets? We needed the residents to take ownership of this problem.

## Response

The team held a second meeting involving community members from other areas that had assisted in other projects, to gain any insight they might have regarding a solution to this problem. After this meeting, it was noted that there is a lack of a community identity in the L21 beat involved in this project. The residents of this area often don't know their neighbors very well and have difficulties to knowing who does and does not belong in a particular area. Instilling community spirit would likely play a significant role in the success or failure of any plan of action decided upon.

Several ideas were proposed during this meeting to aid in attacking the problem. One proposal from Deputy Steve McComas was to create a form that would be passed out by patrol deputies advising residents of any bad habits they may have such as leaving a

garage door open, etc. to make them more aware of how they could become a future victim.

It was decided that Det. Shawn Erwin would be responsible for creating a flier to be passed out in the L21 beat. The deadline for the flier would be July 17th. The flier had a photograph of the interior of a vehicle with a purse and cellular telephone visible. The caption read: "Does the inside of your car look like this? If so you may become a victim of a vehicle burglary." The flyer contained the statistical information pertaining to vehicle burglaries affecting the L21 beat including the average property loss, out of pocket expense, and time without the vehicle due to repairs. The opposite side of the flier contained crime prevention tips as it pertains to vehicle burglaries and announced the times and locations of the community meetings we planned to host.

Beginning July 17th the Northeast Field Services Bureau Property Detectives, Operation Safe Street Team, Community Service Officers, Explorers, citizen volunteers, and the Northeast Field Services Bureau Commander, Lt. Jeff Hollis began distributing the fliers in the L21 beat. The citizen volunteers were from other neighborhoods within the service area of the Northeast Field Services Bureau. The areas canvassed were unincorporated areas in and around the targeted zones. That area extended from Shaw Ave. to the south, Blackstone Ave. to the east, and West Ave. to the west, and Sierra Ave. to the north.

Fliers were distributed by walking door to door. Uniformed Sheriff's Department personnel left a flier on each doorstep. All fliers were distributed by July 21st.

On July 28th and 29th, 2000 Northeast Field Services Bureau Property Detectives, the Operation Safe Street Team, Community Service Officers, and the Northeast Field Services Bureau Commander canvassed Zone 1554. A survey questionnaire was completed for each residence in the zone. The survey asked for the physical address of each residence and whether contact was made or not. Three questions were asked if contact was made. "1) Have you been the victim of a vehicle burglary in the past eighteen months? 2) Did you file a report with the Sheriffs Dept.? 3) Would you be interested in joining a Neighborhood Watch group? If yes: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

The eighteen-month parameter was set to try to capture any unreported vehicle burglaries during the same time frame that was being studied. This was done to ensure that there was not an under reporting of crime that would skew the analysis. The team wanted to capture any vehicle burglaries that may have been missed due to victims not coming forward due to fear or apathy.

Det. Erwin created a PowerPoint presentation to be given during two separate community meetings. The meetings were held in the Bullard High School cafeteria. The first meeting was held on Friday, July 28, 2000, at 1900 hours. The second meeting was held on Saturday, July 29, 2000, at 1300 hours. Bullard High School's marquis was used to announce those meetings to be hosted by the Sheriff's Department.

The presentation outlined the COPPS philosophy and the Sheriff's Department's commitment to building a partnership with the community. The Department's Mission, Vision, and Values Statements were presented as well. The scope and nature of the problem was outlined including statistical information regarding the vehicle burglaries. Crime prevention tips and techniques were also discussed. A question and answer period followed. The community was able to ask specific questions and interact with the Northeast Field Services Bureau Property Detectives. The detectives were able to clarify points given during the presentation and help the citizens understand the nature of their role in the crime triangle.

It was recognized from the start that simply informing the residents of the problem and how to reduce their chances of becoming victims would not be enough to have an impact.

The following plan was implemented for vehicle burglaries within zone 1554.

All vehicle burglaries will be investigated in person and not telephonically.

A Deputy Sheriff will respond to the scene and take the report in person.

Identification Bureau Technicians (crime scene evidence technicians) will respond, except at the direction of a supervisor.

Community Service Officers will canvass the zone within 48 hours of a vehicle

burglary and pass out fliers advising of the occurrence of a vehicle burglary occurring in the area.

The fliers were reminders for the residents to secure their vehicles and belongings. The emphasis was placed on preventing future victims.

On 2-16-01 and 2-17-01 the team expanded the project by three zones in the L21 beat. The zones were 1352, 1452 and 1453. Zone 1453 was selected to have the fliers mailed to them. Northeast Field Services Bureau OSS Deputies, Property Detectives and Community Service Officer's canvassed zones 1352 and 1452 passing out the fliers door to door. Two separate community meetings were held at Tenaya Middle School. The first meeting was on 2-16-01 at 1900 hours. The second meeting was on 2-17-01 at 1300 hours. Both meetings were held in the cafeteria and Detective Erwin gave the Power Point presentations. Sgt. Christian outlined the COPPS philosophy and the Sheriff's Department's commitment to building a partnership with the community. The Department's Mission, Vision and Values Statements were presented as well. The scope and nature of the problem was outlined including statistical information regarding vehicle burglaries. Crime prevention tips and techniques were discussed. A question and answer period followed. The community was able to ask specific questions and interact with Northeast Field Services Bureau Property Detectives and OSS team members. Sgt. Christian clarified points given during the presentation and helped the citizens understand the nature of their role in the crime triangle.

### Assessment

On 7-17-00 OSS and Property Detective's implemented a plan to reduce the number of vehicle burglaries in Zone 1554. A flier was created to pass out to the citizens. The flier contained a photo of the interior of a vehicle. The photo depicted items in plain view, such as a purse, cell phone and wallet. The flier also contained helpful tips on how not to become a victim. The Operation Safe Street Team, Property Detectives, Community Service Officer's, and citizen volunteers passed out the fliers. Two community meetings

where held on 7-28 and 7-29 2000 to educate the citizens of that zone. The meeting was held at Bullard High School. A Power Point presentation was given to educate the citizens that attended. At the meeting citizens were provided in greater detail with tips on how not to become a victim. The purpose of the meeting and fliers was to lower the number of vehicle burglaries.

- The statistics for Zone 1554 revealed an 56.25% reduction in vehicle burglaries.

~~DATE: 1-1-99 through 7-31-00~~

~~DATE: 8-1-00 through 02-28-02~~

Zone 1554: 16 vehicle burglaries

Zone 1554: 7 vehicle burglaries

On 2-16 and 2-17 of 2001 the project was expanded to the following three Zones 1352, 1452 and 1453. The OSS Team, Property Detectives, and Community Service Officer's passed out the fliers. The town hall meetings were held at Tenaya Middle School, Once again a Power Point presentation was given.

- The statistics for those zones revealed 75% reduction in vehicle burglaries.

~~DATE: 1-1-99 through 2-28-01~~

~~DATE: 3-1-01 through 02-28-02~~

Zone 1352: 8 vehicle burglaries

Zone 1352: 3 vehicle burglaries

Zone 1452: 11 vehicle burglaries

Zone 1452: 3 vehicle burglary

Zone 1453: 13 vehicle burglaries

Zone 1453: 2 vehicle burglaries

Residential burglaries were also reduced during the same time period.

- The statistics for residential burglaries revealed a overall 41.18% reduction in residential burglaries.

~~DATE: 1-1-99 to 8-1-00~~

~~DATE: 8-1-00 to 02-28-02~~

Zone 1554: 12 residential burglaries

Zone 1554: 8 residential burglaries

Zone 1352: 3 residential burglaries

Zone 1352: 5 residential burglary

Zone 1452: 2 residential burglaries

Zone 1452: 3 residential burglary

Zone 1453: 17 residential burglaries

Zone 1453: 4 residential burglary

*All statistics include reports of attempted vehicle and residential burglaries..*

A community group was started and the Neighborhood Watch Group was revitalized.

Monitoring of this project is maintained on a monthly basis through crime statistics. The team maintains this project through on going community meetings. The team also sends out informational fliers with up dates and crime prevention reminders. These fliers are sent out semi annually. They are also sent out as a reminder if a problem appears to be developing.

Prior to the start of this project there have been six crime patterns in the four zones. The L21 beat has not had a crime pattern open in any of the project zones since the inception of this project.

The team has found that going door to door was labor intensive. The team has implemented this project in other zones in other neighborhoods within the Northeast Field Services Bureau by using bulk mailings. Citizen volunteers and Community Service Officers' help to prepare the mailers. These new projects are having similar results.

### ***For More Informations***

This project was a combined effort of the Operation Safe Streets Team, Property Detectives, uniformed patrol beat teams, Community Services Officers assigned to the Northeast Field Services Bureau of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department in partnership with the community members living in the L21 beat. Citizen groups included, but are not limited to, Tarpey Neighborhood Assoc., and the Sunnyside Property Owners Assoc.

For more information about the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Northeast Field Services Bureau's Operation Safe Street's team activities contact:

Dep. Michael Brand (559) 292-1129 [mbrand@fresno.ca.gov](mailto:mbrand@fresno.ca.gov)

Dep. James Bewley (559) 292-1104 [jbewlev@fresno.ca.gov](mailto:jbewlev@fresno.ca.gov)

Dep. Greg Gularte (559) 292-1.104 [gularte@fresno.ca.gov](mailto:gularte@fresno.ca.gov)

Dep. Jimmy Robnett (559) 292-11.04 [jrobbett@fresno.ca.gov](mailto:jrobbett@fresno.ca.gov)

Fresno County Sheriff's Department

Northeast Field Services Bureau

5717 E. Shields

Fresno, CA. 93727

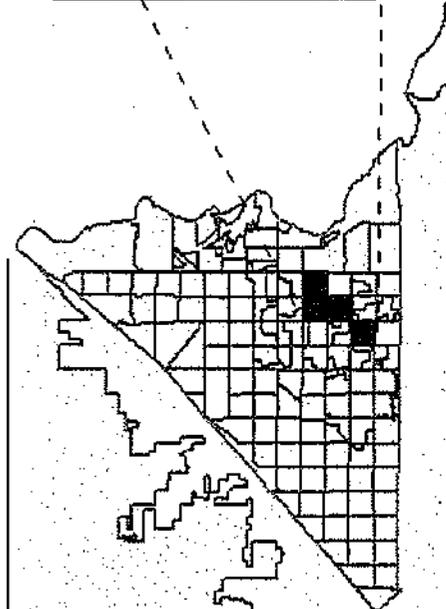
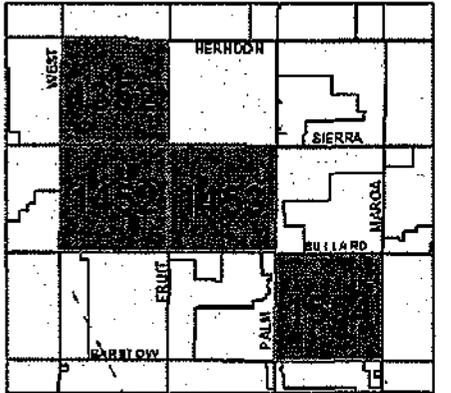
Dep. S, Asselin's original project documentation was used in part to create this project over view.

### *Attachments*

The following pages include zone maps, pin maps, flyers and follow up flyers used in this project. They are modified and used for maintenance of the project and use in new projects. Also included are some of the Power Point slides used in the town hall meetings.

# AREA OF STUDY

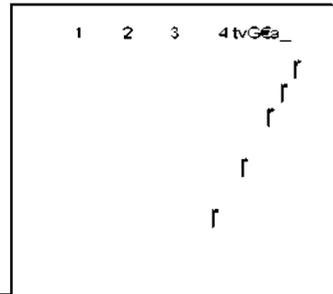
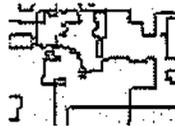
Sheriff's Area 2  
 Beat Lincoln 21  
 Zones 1362, 1452, 1453, 1554



**FRESNO**

**a**

**CLOVIS**



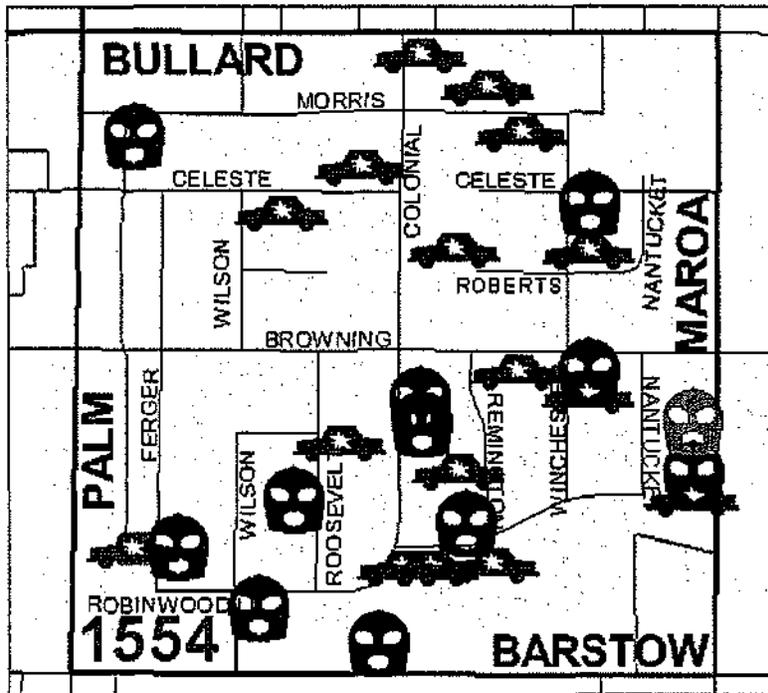
Study Zones  
 Seat L21  
 | Zone Soundries  
 Fresno-Clovis City Limits  
 Area 2  
 Fresno County



**FRESNO COUNTY**  
 10 0 to 20 30 40 50 Miles

# ZONE 1554

## Burglaries from 111199 to 7131/00



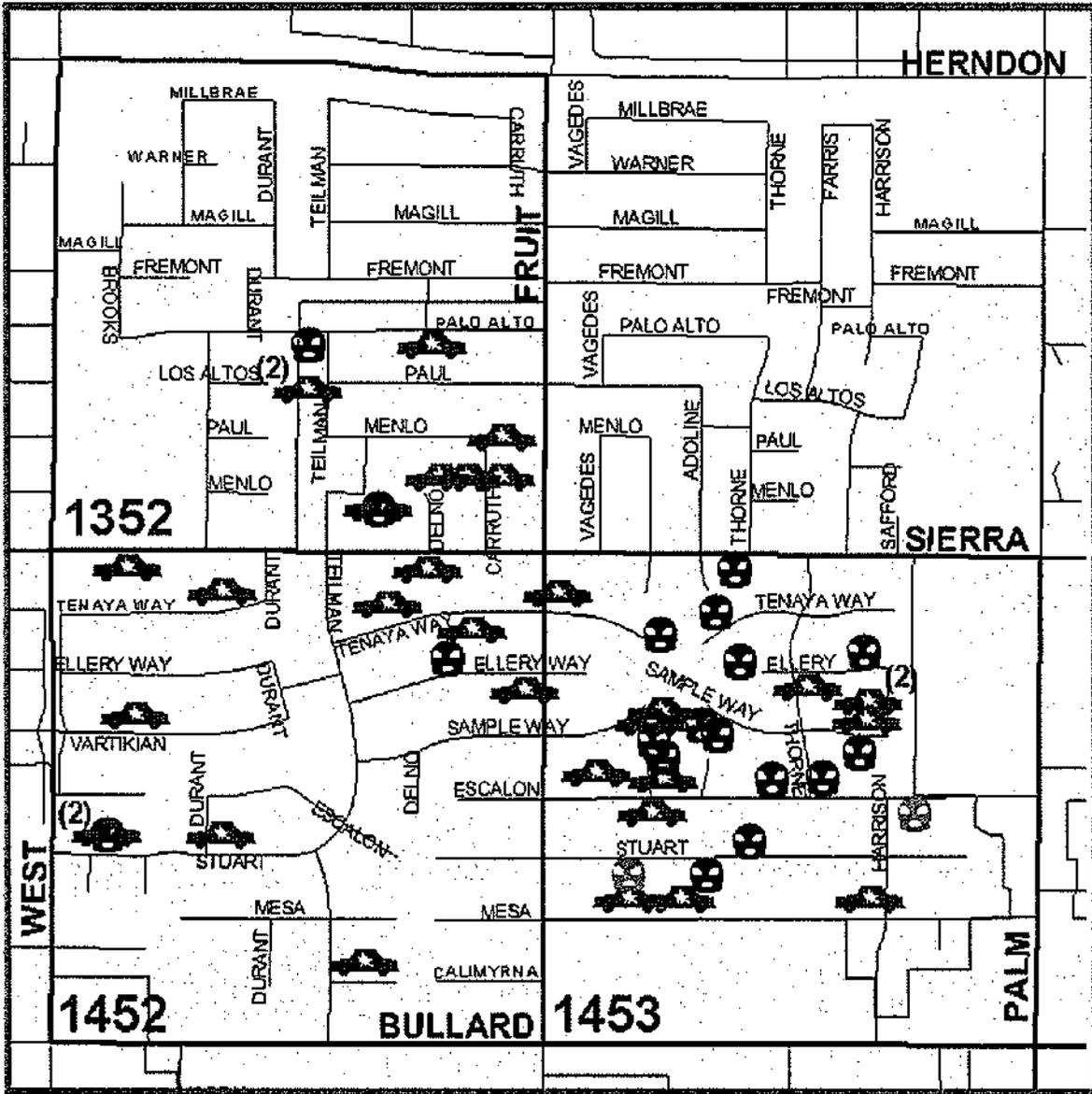
0.2                      0.4                      0.5 Miles

- Residential Burglary
- Attempted Residential Burglary
- Vehicle Burglary
- Attempted Vehicle Burglary
- Zone Boundry
- Fresno City Limit
- County Area



## ZONES 1352, 1452, 1453

### Burglaries from 11/1999 to 2/28/2001

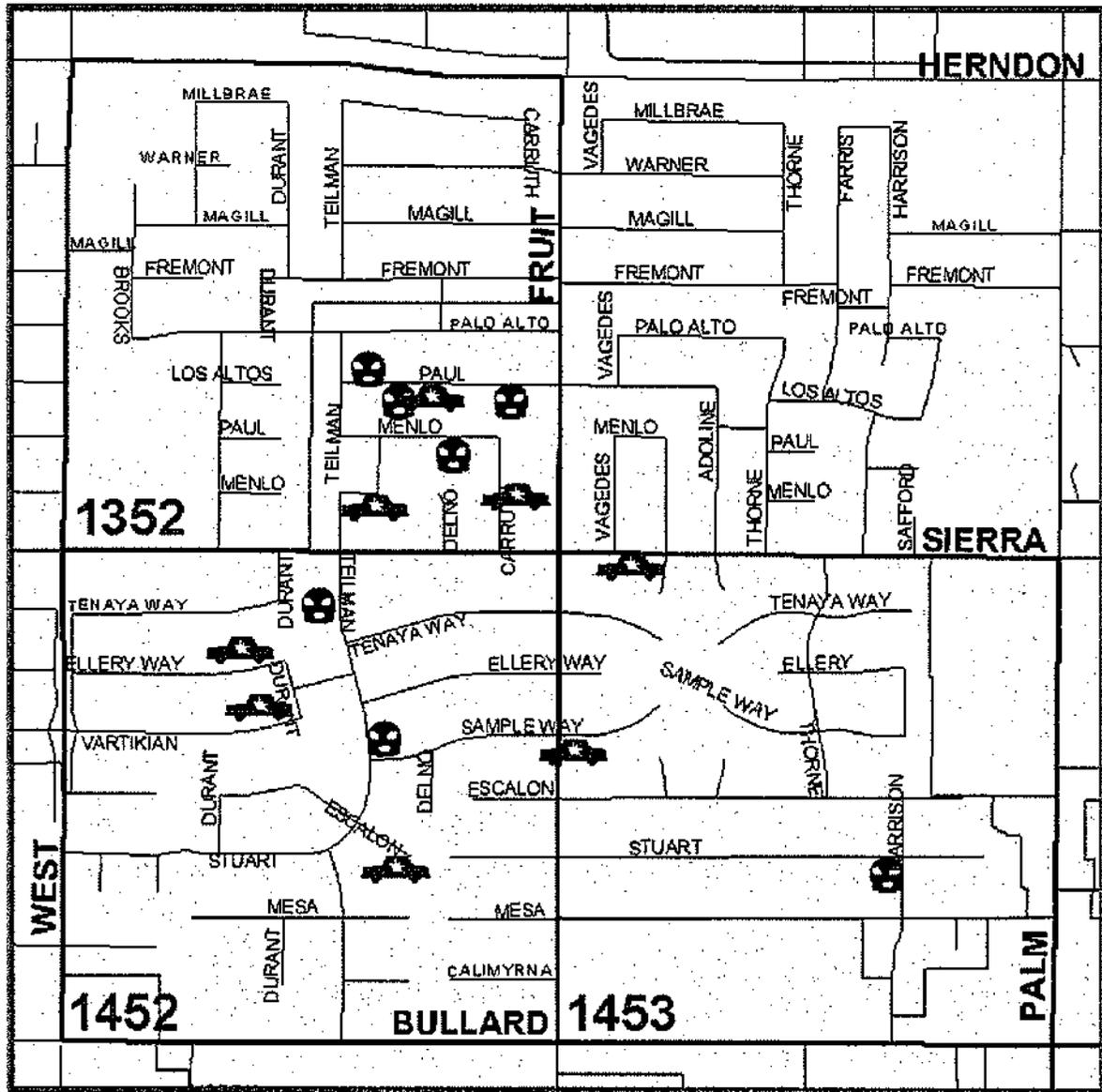


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ssC%a isCIDL	Vehicle Burglary Attempted Vehicle Burglary Residential Burglary Attempted Residential Burglary	Fresno City Limits Zone Boundries	County Area
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## ZONES 1352, 1452, 1453

### Burglaries from 3111€ 1 to 2128102



0

vii es

<p>Vehicle Burglary</p> <p>Fast Attempted Vehicle Burglary</p> <p>Residential Burglary</p> <p>Attempted Residential Burglary</p>	<p>Fresno City Limits</p> <p>Zone Boundaries</p> <p>County Area</p>
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## Fresno County Sheriff's Department

### DOES THE INSIDE OF YOUR CAR LOOK LIKE THIS?



### IF SO.... YOU MAY BECOME A VICTIM OF A VEHICLE BURGLARY

THE FRESNO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WANTS TO  
HELP STOP CRIME IN YOUR AREA.

From January 1999 to June 2000, 536 vehicle burglaries occurred in the county islands of Fresno. 163 of which occurred in your community.

- © 16 out of the 163 vehicle burglaries resulted in the average property loss valued at \$ **661.12**
- The average out of pocket expense to the vehicle burglary victims in your community was \$ 247.50
- € The average time the victim was without their vehicle due to damage repair was One day

*(This is the back Page of previous flier)*

The Fresno Sheriff's Department wants to work with your community to help discourage vehicle, burglaries in your area.

#### Crime Prevention Tips:

- ❖ Put all packages, *cell phones purses* and briefcases out of sight or remove them from your car. Items left in the open invite theft. Interviewed burglars stated that they first look for vehicles that have items that are in the open. Close your windows and lock your doors.
- ❖ Use your garage. Lock both your vehicle and your garage. Activate any anti-theft devices you may have. Better yet, install a device that is passive, automatically activating itself a short time after the key is removed. Most anti-theft devices cost less than the deductible you would pay to replace windows that were broken and items that were stolen. Use your driveway. Improve your driveway lighting.

## **The Sheriff's Department is hosting two community meetings *in your area.***

**The first meeting will be Friday, *June 28, 2000 at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria at Bullard High School.***

**> The second meeting will be Saturday, July 29, 2000 at 1:00 PM in the cafeteria at Bullard High School.**

Please attend one of these meetings for detailed information regarding the scope of the vehicle burglary problem in your area, things that you can do to reduce the problem, and the plans the Sheriff's Department has to impact this crime problem.

We hope to see you there.



## Fresno County Sheriff's Department

# Someone in your community was burglarized!

A neighbor who lives on your street was a victim of a vehicle burglary.

The Fresno Sheriff's Department wants to work with your community to help discourage vehicle burglaries in your area.

### Crime Prevention Tips:

*Put all packages, cell phones, purses and briefcases out of sight or remove them from your car. Items left in the open invite theft. Interviewed burglars stated that they first look for vehicles that have items that are in the open.*

- ❖ *Close your windows and lock your doors.*
- Use your garage. Lock both your vehicle and your garage.*
- ❖ *Activate any anti-theft devices you may have. Better yet, install a device that is passive, automatically activating itself a short time after the key is removed. Most anti-theft devices cost less than the deductible you would pay to replace windows that were broken and items that were stolen.*
- Use your driveway.*
- ❖ *Improve your driveway lighting.*

Please help us in combating vehicle burglaries in your community by using the above tips\_

If you have any information or have any questions, please contact:

Northeast Field Services Bureau  
Detectives  
5717 E. Shields, Fresno, CA 93717  
559-292-1141



## Fresno County Sheriff's Department

### GOOD JOB!!!

Through teamwork and neighborhood awareness, we have had had a successful impact on the number of vehicle burglaries in your area. There have been "0" vehicle burglaries in your area since July 2000! In contrast, there have been "16" vehicle burglaries outside the area of Bullard/Barstow/Maroa/Palm!

Through a continued partnership we hope to extend this success rate throughout the year and beyond.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Department would like to remind you of the following tips to guard against vehicle burglaries in your neighborhood:

- ❖ Put all packages, cell phones, purses and briefcases out of sight or remove them from your car. Items left in the open invite theft, interviewed burglars stated that they first look for *vehicles* that have items that are in the open.  
Close your windows and lock your doors.
- ❖ Use your garage. Lock both your vehicle and your garage.
- ❖ Activate any anti-theft devices you may have. Better yet, install a device that is passive, automatically activating itself a short time after the key is removed. Most anti-theft devices cost less than the deductible you would pay to replace windows that were broken and items that were stolen.
- Use your driveway.
- ❖ Improve your driveway lighting.

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