

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT



Contact us:

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Covina Police Department

444. N. Citrus Ave.
Covina, CA 91723

Crime Prevention

626-384-5630
cbobkiewicz@covinaca.gov

Non-Emergency Dispatch

626-384-5808

Records Division

(626) 384-5656

Covina Jail

(626) 384-5638

Property / Evidence

(626) 384-5645

Traffic Division

(626) 384-5674

Detective Bureau

(626) 384-5628

Graffiti Hotline

(626) 384-5599

We're on the Web!
<http://covinaca.gov/cpd>

Online reporting
available today!

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Halloween Safety

Halloween is coming, which means kids will be out in our neighborhoods Trick-or-Treating. Trick-or-Treating is a fun and exciting time for kids, but without taking proper precautions it can be a dangerous time.

Darkness, youth and commuter traffic in combination creates risk. The Covina Police Department offers the following tips for Trick-or-Treaters and parents of Trick-or-Treaters:

Safety Tips:

- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see and be seen.
- Use makeup instead of a mask. A mask may keep you from seeing well.



- Carry a flashlight with you, so you can see and be seen by others.
- Plan your Trick-or-Treat route ahead of time.
- Always walk facing traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Wait until you get home to sort, check and eat your treats.
- Keep an eye at all times on those you take Trick-or-Treating.
- Look left, right and left again; look and listen for traffic before crossing the street.
- Never go into a stranger's house for treats.

[end]

The Covina Police Dispatch Center

Talking with members of our community, it is apparent that the Dispatch Center is among the Department's bigger mysteries. This article seeks to provide information that will help de-mystify why things are done the way they are.

Other than very rare exceptions, two Covina Police Dispatchers are on-duty at any given time, 24/7/365. These two dispatchers are responsible for 12 business lines and six 911 lines, which during emergencies potentially

all ring simultaneously. They are also responsible for monitoring and updating all the activity of anywhere from four to 10 on-duty officers and monitoring all radio communications.

[Continued Page Two]

Don't be a victim – Grand Theft Auto Prevention Tips:

- Never Leave your car running and unattended.
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition, even inside a locked garage.
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home.
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk out of sight.
- Carry your drivers' license, registration, and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle.
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them on you with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, police will need this information promptly.
- Always park in a high-traffic, well-lighted area, if possible.

Covina Police Dispatch Center (continued)

When you place a call for service on the business line or 911 from any landline or cell phone within city limits, one of our two on-duty dispatchers will answer. Their job is to determine the needs of the caller and get officers dispatched quickly to emergencies and in-progress crimes. Citizens sometimes report feeling hurried and interrupted when they call, but considering the following facts should help explain why:

Covina dispatchers must quickly identify injuries and/or specific crime elements to determine what resources to send on a call.

Covina dispatchers handle an average of 466 incoming phone calls in a 24 hour day

- Approximately 60 are 911 calls - 45 of which are made from cell phones.
- If you call 911 from a cell phone your location is not automatically known.

Covina dispatchers prioritize calls for service into one of five categories:

Priority One: All assault type crimes in progress and injury traffic collisions.

Priority Two: Suspicious incidents, disturbances, and property crimes in progress.

Priority Three: Report calls (most of these calls can be done online now).

Priority Four: Officer initiated activity, such as traffic stops and pedestrian checks.

Priority Five: Warrant pick-ups or abandoned Vehicles.

[Common Scenario]: Covina Police Dispatchers receive three simultaneous 911 cell phone calls of an injury collision, while an officer conducts a traffic stop – broadcasting his location and the violator's license plate, while an alarm monitoring company calls to report an alarm activation at a local business, while a citizen calls to report his car was broken into overnight, while another officer broadcasts seeing two men chasing a third man down the street.

The Covina Police Department encourages you to call when you observe suspicious activity. While doing so, we ask that you understand that our dispatchers are trained to get the most relevant information from you expeditiously, in order to give our officers the best chance to catch law violators and keep everyone safe. If they interrupt it's for a purpose, and you never know what may be happening on the police radio, or on any of the other 17 phone lines simultaneous to your call.

**Police Volunteer
of the Year**

Rudy Fonseca was named the 2013 Volunteer of the Year for the Covina Police Department. Rudy has volunteered his time since 2010, and has donated more than 1400 hours of outstanding service to the Covina Police Department and the community.

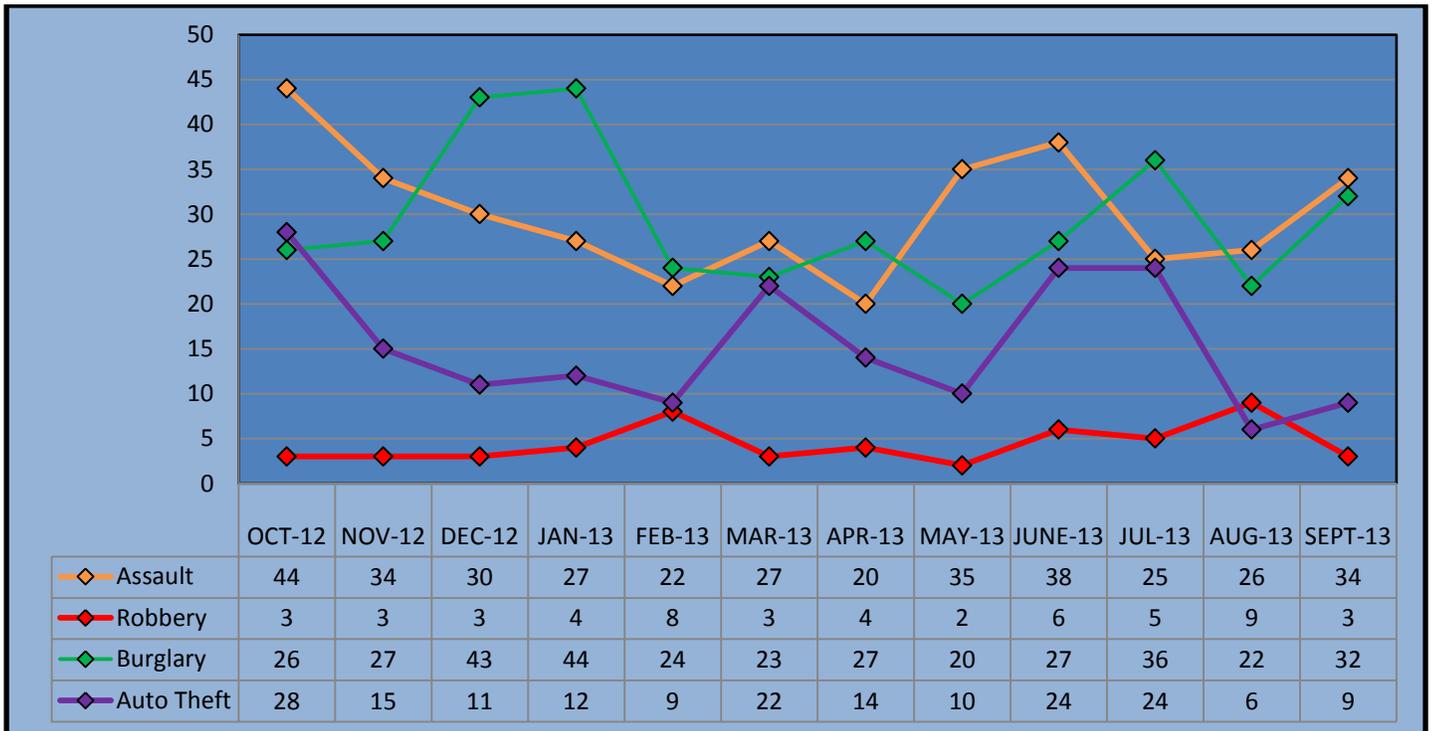
Rudy handles a variety of duties that assist the patrol function of the department. He works community events, serves subpoenas, conducts vacation home checks, and makes himself available for call-outs at all hours of the day or night. Rudy also maintains the record of hours donated by the entire volunteer group..



(CVP Rudy Fonseca)

In his spare time away from the Covina Police Department, Rudy works with the Covina Chamber of Commerce and is also active with the Soroptimist International group out of Santa Fe Springs. His hobbies include working on his classic 1973 Volkswagen. Congratulations Rudy, and thank you for your selfless service to our community.

Covina Police Crime Statistics – September 2013



Click the link below to see the crime map

<http://covinaca.gov/crime-information/crimereports.com>

Violent Crimes -24%

- Homicide, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault & Robbery

Property Crime -25%

- Burglary, Auto Theft, Larceny & Arson

Calls for Service -4%



Percentages shown are increase or decrease from the previous year to date.