

RETAIL THEFT

INFORMATION AND SAFETY TIPS



911

for a crime in progress



442-339-2197

to report suspicious activity

Trends Detectives are observing

- Small businesses are being targeted by opportunistic criminals (suspects committing thefts spontaneously while staff is preoccupied with other customers)
- Larger businesses are being targeted by organized criminals who often enter with "booster bags" and a plan to steal significant amounts of merchandise
- Thefts are occurring mid-day during business "rushes"

What to look out for

- Individuals/groups who are repeatedly attempting to distract employees, or isolate employees from other customers
- Individuals/groups who enter a business with their faces obscured by masks, hats, and hooded clothing, often inconsistent with weather conditions
- Individuals/groups who are selecting merchandise without checking for quality, pricing, and sizing
- Individuals/groups who enter stores with empty shopping bags, backpacks, and duffle bags



Suggestions on how you can protect your store.

Tips

- Update existing security cameras and surveillance systems (and know how to work them!)
- Have multiple cameras, ideally:
- Cameras at “face level”, near the store’s entry points, which capture people entering/exiting the store
- Cameras in high corners to capture theft/concealment of merchandise
- An exterior camera to capture potential suspect vehicles
- Consider how much merchandise should be put out on display
- Protect valuable merchandise with locked cabinets
- Keep good business records and invoices of valuable merchandise

Special Considerations

- Call the non-emergency line to report suspicious behavior (you do not need to wait until a crime occurs)
- If you notice any suspicious activity, note down details such as height, weight, age, race, clothing, and any distinguishing features.
 - Can utilize text 911 for Carlsbad PD: be descriptive regarding the suspicious individual
- Do not physically intervene with suspects committing active crimes
- Join SDORCA (San Diego Organized Retail Crime Alliance) - see www.sdorca.org

Penal Codes

- 488 PC: Petty Theft, under 950\$ (misdemeanor)
- 459.5 PC: Shoplifting, under 950\$ (misdemeanor)
- 487 PC: Grand Theft, over 950\$ (felony)
- 490.4 PC: Organized Retail Crime (felony)