

CITY OF JACKSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIME PREVENTION BULLITEN

Scams and other types of Thefts

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The large percentage of tourists who visit our community are good people looking for a great experience and a great shopping experience too.

However, there are those who know the good and trusting nature of our community and will take advantage of it to throw merchants off-guard to create an opportunity to commit theft or other crimes.

These Crimes have and do occur here in Jackson!

One of the scams we see is to overwhelm the lone merchant. Several people working together will come in your store; distract you while another person/suspect goes undetected behind the counter or in your employee room, looking for purses and other valuables. (cell phones, laptops or tablets etc.) This distraction is also used while criminal partners conceal merchandise in another area of the shopping floor.

We have experienced this type of theft during Special Events, such as Christmas Delights and during other events in our community.

The Jackson Police Department, suggests that during these busy shopping times, you should have at least two employees on duty so that your register and private rooms are under continual observation.

If you have in-store cameras that record floor activity, make sure they are positioned in such a way that faces are recorded. You need to be familiar with your video equipment. Knowing how to download recordings to DVD or a memory stick, will provide for best evidence and later prosecution. (Never edit any footage!)

THE LAW

It used to be considered Felony Retail Burglary, for anyone who entered any business with the intent to commit a felony or any other theft.

The Law has changed! As result of propositions 47 & 57; in California, property/merchandise stolen (even with intent) must reach a value of \$999.00 or more to be considered a felony theft or felony burglary. The word is out and organized thieves know this all too well. They will hit retail stores in groups and keep track of dollar amounts, as they know that keeping the dollar amount

under the felony threshold will result in a misdemeanor charge with citation and release. In this community, it may result in physical arrest and jail booking; however, (to **no fault** of our local jail or staff) suspects might be cited and released by jail staff, who need cell space for those who are considered violent offenders or other felony bookings etc.

Citizen's Arrest

Remember, to make a misdemeanor arrest, you as the citizen, making such an arrest, **must have witnessed** the unlawful act/theft.

Force (Try to avoid it!)

You can use force during an arrest. But remember, you can only use the amount of force necessary to make the arrest. However, don't endanger yourself to make a citizen's arrest. Are the items stolen worth your life or your employee's life or risk of injury?

Firearms and other Weapons (FAQ)

Shop owners and staff can be armed with a firearm (if not prevented by the Dept. of Justice) while **inside** the premises of your own shop/store. However, if you are armed, you should know that you cannot brandish your firearm or use it to make a citizen's arrest unless you have been met by force of another that may cause you great bodily injury or death. If you do not possess a valid California Concealed Firearms Permit, you cannot leave your property while armed to pursue a suspect or for any other reason. To do so, could lead to you being arrested!

Taser's and pepper spray is legal for those 18 years of age and older. These defensive weapons **can be concealed** on your person. Again, use caution and be fully aware of how and when to use them so they won't be used against you!

Personal Safety

Be aware of your surroundings. If you see a person(s) and or vehicle that look suspicious, please call us! These calls are never bothersome to us. We'd rather you call us, to prevent you or others becoming a victim. Many times these calls have prevented criminal activity and or resulted in arrests!

After business hours and if we are not responding to a priority call; you may call us if you feel you need an escort to your vehicle or just have our presence in the immediate area. If you must make large cash deposits, especially during evening hours, we will provide an escort if we are available.

Whenever you have an Emergency, Dial 911!

As much as this bulletin may read as a lecture, it is not. It is meant to be informative and food for thought should you be faced with any of these circumstances.

If any merchant would like further explanation or clarification regarding this bulletin, please feel free to call me. If I am not available, I will make sure another Member of JPD staff contacts you and provides you with the information you are seeking.

Thank you and be Safe!

City of Jackson Police Department Non-Emergency Number: 223-1771

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