

# Special Victims Bureau SAFE Team

YEAR IN REVIEW 2008

DETECTIVE DIVISION

Los Angeles County covers over 3,157 square miles and has a very diverse population of approximately 10 million people. According to recent California Megan's Law statistics, there are approximately 83,000 convicted sex offenders in California. Of those 83,000 sex offenders, 15,841 reside in Los Angeles County. In Los Angeles County, over 4,498 have failed to properly register in violation of California Penal Code 290.



Special Victims Bureau sought out and found funding in the form of a grant provided through the California Office of Emergency Services (OES). As a result of this funding the Los Angeles County Regional Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team was established to monitor and track sex offenders registered in Los Angeles County.

Through a combined effort, the Los Angeles County Regional SAFE Team immediately instituted regular, monthly sweeps in any one of 23 regional Sheriff's Station's jurisdictions. These sweeps targeted non-compliant sex offenders, offenders with arrest warrants, sex offenders on probation and parole, as well as the monitoring of registered sex offenders to ensure they were complying with their registration requirements.

SAFE Team members also conducted investigations which were generated as a result of compliance checks where new evidence was related to additional crimes was located. SAFE Team members have received extensive training in the use of computers by sexual predators. This knowledge has proved beneficial and has resulted in numerous filings with their District Attorney counterparts on the task force.

Jurisdictions patrolled by the Sheriff's Department, have significantly lowered their non-compliance rate. The non-compliance rate was lowered from 419 in January of 2008 to 360 in October of this year. This represents a 14% reduction in the number of registrants who have failed to register pursuant to Penal Code 290. To date, the Los Angeles County Regional SAFE Team has conducted over 445 searches in their continuing effort to enforce and lower the sex offender non-compliance rate.



Due to the regional nature of sex offender movement, a need existed to incorporate outside law enforcement agencies in a cooperative effort. These conditions strengthened the need to locate funding to form a partnership between local law enforcement agencies and establish inter-agency communication and cooperation to maintain diligent monitoring of these high-risk sex offenders.



The Los Angeles County Regional SAFE Team is comprised of members from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the California Department of Corrections/Parole Division. Through monthly sweeps, specifically targeting non-compliant sex offenders, the SAFE Team has made a tremendous impact on monitoring this dangerous criminal element.



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