



## Grover Beach Police Department

---

### \*\*\*\*\***Merchant Alert**\*\*\*\*\* December 2007

The holiday season is here. Local merchants and law enforcement agencies throughout San Luis Obispo County will be seeing an increase in **Bank/Store Robberies, Purse Snatching, Identity Theft, Forgery, Fraudulent use of Credit Cards, Counterfeit Checks, NSF Checks, and Counterfeit Traveler Checks.** Following the simple guidelines below can reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

#### Bank and Store Robberies:

- Take large posters and advertisements out of windows so interior areas are visible.
- Check surveillance equipment to make sure it's working properly and dates and times are accurate. Know how to operate your equipment.
- Make sure security alarms are working. Check to make sure date and time are correct.
- Advise customers to put loose currency out of sight prior to leaving your business.
- Be a good witness. Do not attempt to fight with a suspect.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash in cash drawer or cash register.

#### Identity Theft, Forgery, Fraudulent use of Credit Cards, Counterfeit Checks, NSF Checks and Counterfeit Travelers Checks:

- Ask for identification.
- Check the signature, photograph and physical of presenter.
- Make sure the name matches on both identification *and* credit/debit card or traveler checks.
- Call the bank to verify the check, if necessary.
- Call 800 number located on credit/debit card for signer information.
- Accept only local, pre-printed checks with current address and phone number.
- Request thumb print on check.

#### Counterfeit Currency:

- Hold the bill to a light source to inspect Security Thread and Watermark:
  - Check placement of the thread: **\$100** - between FRB & picture, **\$50** -between picture & T-Seal, **\$20** - left of FRB, **\$10** - between picture & T-Seal, **\$5** - center to left FRB.
  - Watermark and Portrait on front should look the same.
- Place bill under a UV light:
  - Security thread will glow a certain color depending on denomination:  
**\$100** - red/pink, **\$50** - yellow, **\$20** - green, **\$10** - orange, **\$5** -blue.
- Other Security features include:
  - Red & blue fibers, micro printing, color shifting ink on lower right 100 (green to black).

If you suspect a bill may be counterfeit, call the **United States Secret Service** at **(805) 339-9180** or **(213) 894-4830**. Both phone numbers are available 24 hours a day.

**Report any suspicious transactions and/or persons immediately to the  
Grover Beach Police Department at (805) 473-4511.**

###