



## Connect with Your Local Sheriff's Deputies

### Altadena Sheriff's Station

Gone are the days of "Wanted" posters in the most trafficked areas of town. Modern day law enforcement agencies are now posting descriptions of criminals on the most trafficked platforms on the World Wide Web.

Social media platforms provide a significant tool for law enforcement. The Altadena Sheriff's Station uses many systems to get and stay connected with our community and share timely public safety related information.

With law enforcement social media services like, Nixle, Twitter, Facebook, and others, Altadena Sheriff's station is able to provide essential information that the public and local media agencies need to know during an emergency. Deputies on scene of an incident or emergency can provide valuable information that may be directly shared with the public through our verified law enforcement systems or accounts. By doing this, we can help our residents avoid the area of a major traffic accident, let them know what is occurring and reduce fear, and even provide safety tips or evacuation information if needed. Our local media outlets often use the information provided to reach out to their audiences and share relevant crime and public safety related information. The best part is you get to choose when and how you want to receive your information through the user settings on these social media platforms.

To get in touch with your local Altadena Sheriff's Station, use any or all of the following platforms:

<http://www.lasd.org>

<http://www.altadena.lasd.org>

<http://www.nixle.com> ([altadena-los-angeles-county-sheriff/](http://altadena-los-angeles-county-sheriff/)) (**register for free**)

Receive crime alerts and public safety information from Altadena Sheriff's Station and local government agencies via your cell phone or email. This service is particularly helpful during an emergency situation. Visit the Nixle website to sign up for free. Encourage your friends and family to also sign up. **Select Altadena Sheriff's Station community messages under options, and deselect any undesired defaults in order to only receive local messages.** Select text or e-mail notifications.

[@aldlasd](http://www.twitter.com)

Altadena Sheriff's Station's Twitter account is managed by the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Team who "tweet" information relevant to the Altadena area several times a week.

Our goal is to eventually expand so that our new Problem Specific Policing Unit (PSP) will have their own Twitter feeds and will be broadcasting (tweeting) daily information.

<http://www.facebook.com> (<http://www.facebook.com/AltadenaSheriffsStation>)

LASD's fan page has thousands of "friends" and is growing daily ([www.facebook.com/LosAngelesCountySheriffsDepartment](http://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesCountySheriffsDepartment)). Through the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Team, Altadena Station has established a Facebook page which allows residents to view important news and connect directly with Altadena Station.

<http://www.crimemapping.com/> (Crime statistics)

To better assess crime trends and more effectively and efficiently deploy resources in response to maintaining our low crime rate, the Altadena Sheriff's Station is launching a Problem Specific Policing Team starting in October 2014.

Every sheriff's station throughout Los Angeles County encourages residents to immediately report any suspicious activity by calling their local station, or for crimes in progress dialing 911.

Innovative crime reporting systems are also gaining significant traction because they enable the community to provide information anonymously. Altadena Sheriff's Station and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has had great success with residents utilizing the Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers program. By dialing 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org> you are able to report non-emergency criminal activity anonymously. A smart phone application is also available.

### **Disaster Preparedness:**

Before an emergency or disaster strikes is the optimum time for you to become familiar with the many ways in which you can get information from your local public safety agencies. Take action today so that we can all easily and quickly share valuable information if a large scale disaster hits. It has been reported that during Hurricane Katrina, the only reliable way to communicate was by text messaging and/or tweeting. This is a good piece of information to know if you are caught off guard in the next crisis.

While everyone else is desperately trying to make a call, you might be able to get your messages out via text. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has also posted information relating to social media platforms becoming an important means of communication and information sharing before, during and after a disaster or large scale emergency.

The Altadena Sheriff's Station urges residents to prepare yourself and your family for a disaster by making an emergency plan. As part of your emergency planning, we implore you to become familiar with the various social media communication options we have provided above.

## Nextdoor

<https://nextdoor.com/>

Nextdoor is a social networking service for neighborhoods. It allows users to connect with people who live in their neighborhood, similar to an online bulletin board. Neighbors can connect to discuss Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's an easy way for you and your neighbors to talk online. There is no cost for use.

People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike

Nextdoor can be also be used for the exchange of goods and services in a manner similar to Craigslist. They believe, however, that users will be more comfortable trusting other verified users than they would trusting sellers on Craigslist.

Nextdoor competes with other social networks. It differentiates itself from Facebook, for example, by limiting the potential people in each network, so presumably improving privacy. Before registering an account, prospective users verify their home address. Nextdoor provides registered users with a list of neighbors who have also registered. Nextdoor never share your info with advertisers.