

## OUR SAFE COMMUNITY

### GOAL

**Increase awareness and be prepared for emergency, minimize threat to life and damage to structures from natural and human-caused hazards, protect from exposure to excessive noise.**

The Safety Element addresses natural and human-caused threats and hazards like violent and property crimes, pedestrian and bike safety, protection from fire, excessive noise, earthquakes, brush fires, and floods, and adequate levels of police, fire, and emergency medical services. The South Pasadena Police and Fire Departments provide public safety. The Public Safety Commission is a seven member body that serves in a primary support capacity to the City's public safety personnel in an endeavor to improve the City's existing emergency response capability. The Public Safety Commission is charged with making recommendations regarding matters affecting:

- Public perceptions of effectiveness;
- Crime incidences;
- Crime trends;
- Life-safety issues;
- Neighborhood watch;
- Fire prevention and awareness;
- Emergency preparedness; and
- Traffic calming measures.

## POLICE

### INTRODUCTION

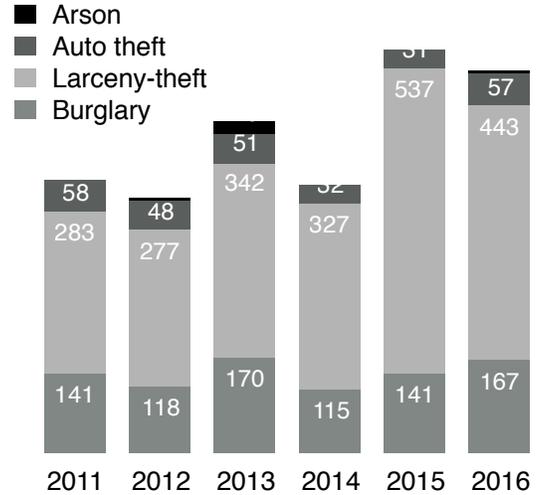
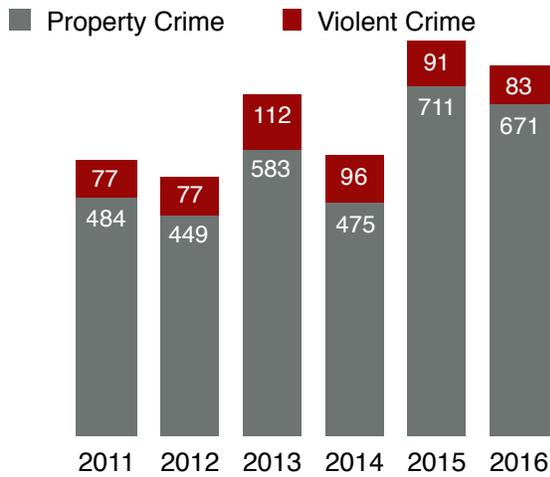
The South Pasadena Police Department (SPPD) is a full service police agency serving the community with 35 sworn officers, 12 non-sworn full-time employees, five part-time employees, and two volunteers. The department is also augmented with seven Reserve Officers. The department also contracts with a private company to enforce parking violations and crossing guards.

The department is divided into two divisions which include Support Services and Field Services.

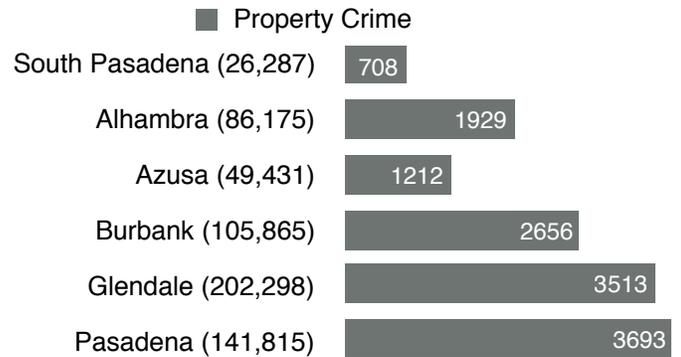
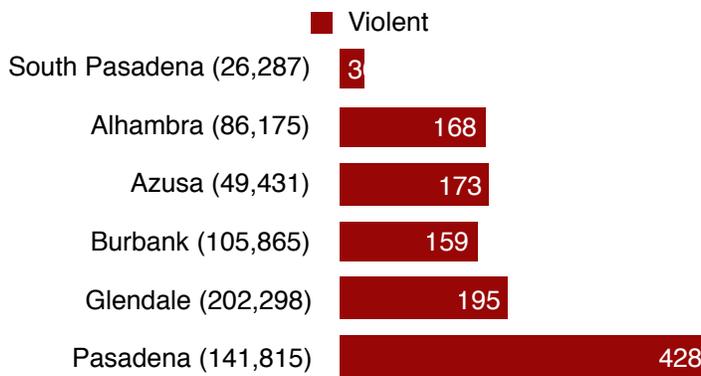
1. The Support Services Division provides support to officers in the field and administrative services to the public. This includes Communications, Crime Analysis, Crime Prevention, Detectives, Emergency Operations, Parking Enforcement, Records, Special Enforcement Team and Volunteers.
2. The Field Services Division includes Patrol Officers, Reserves, Traffic Unit, K9 Team, Bicycle Unit, Office of Professional Standards, Evidence/Property, Area "C" Mutual Aid and Emergency Management.

The Department is committed to a high quality of service with a strong emphasis on the traditionally very rapid response to demands for police service (within 3 minutes for in-progress calls, under 10 minutes for most requests for police service) coupled with high quality service once the officers arrive on the scene. There is regular cooperation and coordination with surrounding police agencies (Pasadena, San Marino, Alhambra, LAPD). This offers the best opportunities for apprehension of criminals and reduction of losses and crime in South Pasadena.

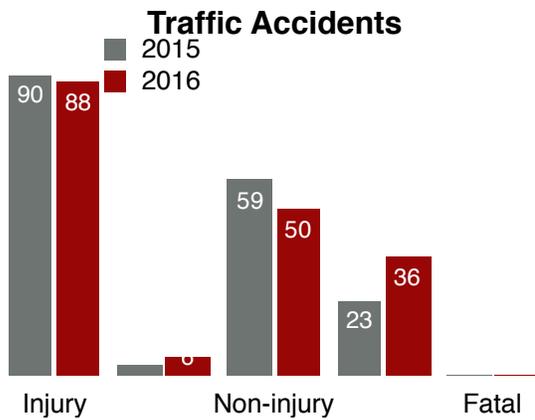
Police Department to provide location of traffic accidents. Insert collisions by mode of people killed.



South Pasadena property and violent crime trend. Source: South Pasadena Police Department



Comparative Violent and Property Crime Statistics. Source: South Pasadena Police Department



Traffic accident statistics. Source: South Pasadena Police Department

## TRENDS

Property and violent crime is low compared to other cities. While crime went up in 2015, the numbers are declining. Shoplifting was the largest category of thefts followed by thefts from unlocked vehicles, auto burglaries, parcel package thefts from front porches and bicycles.

## EXISTING PROGRAMS

**Crime Prevention** is the community outreach program designed to educate the community on ways to prevent crimes from occurring. This is accomplished through literature, public speaking and the Neighborhood Watch Program. To keep the community up-to-date on crime, a Weekly Crime Summary and a monthly newsletter are published and distributed to the community. Crime Prevention also participates in city events such as the Farmers' Market and the Senior Health Fair to distribute crime prevention literature.

"National Night Out" is an annual nationwide campaign that promotes police partnership with neighborhoods to make the community safe. It also creates awareness in the Neighborhood Watch program and encourages residents to participate in it.

*Insert image of National Night Out at Orange Grove Park*

**Bicycle Patrol Unit** patrol the commercial areas, schools, parks and nature preserves. Bicycle Officers have the great advantage of stealth, which enables them to be used for specialized patrol enforcement at night as well as for surveillances. They are also used at city events such as the Fourth of July Parade, Amgen Bike Tour, National Night Out, Summer Concerts in the Parks, Farmers' Market, Tournament of Roses Classic Car Show/Police and Fire Open House, Walk & Bike to School Week, Greenest Fastest Mile Run, and the South Pasadena Green Living Expo and Car Show. Bicycle Officers are environmentally friendly and a great public relations tool as they offer a more visible presence. The Bicycle Unit also promotes bicycle safety to children and adults.

*Insert bike patrol image*

**Predictive Policing** South Pasadena Police Department harnesses the power of information, geospatial technologies and evidence-based intervention models to reduce crime and improve public safety. Predictive Policing directs patrol officers to be in a certain area to help prevent a predicted crime from occurring. The police department contracts with Crime Reduction & Information Management Experts (CRIME) to help forecast crimes. The maps of predictive crimes are shared with Neighborhood Watch groups. The maps are interactive and can be viewed through any smart phone.

*Insert C.R.I.M.E map for South Pasadena*

**Teen Academy** The Teen Academy provides teens information about police department activities and expose them to a different type of discipline. It features a "CSI" type demonstration, canine demonstration, and many other hands-on activities. The

program was highly successful, and a great example of community policing.

**Citizen's Academy** The ten-week program provides instruction for a small group of citizens on subjects ranging from policing narcotics and identity theft to basic patrol procedures and handling dispatch calls. The goal of the program is to provide residents an understanding of how the police department operates and to create public safety ambassadors in the community.

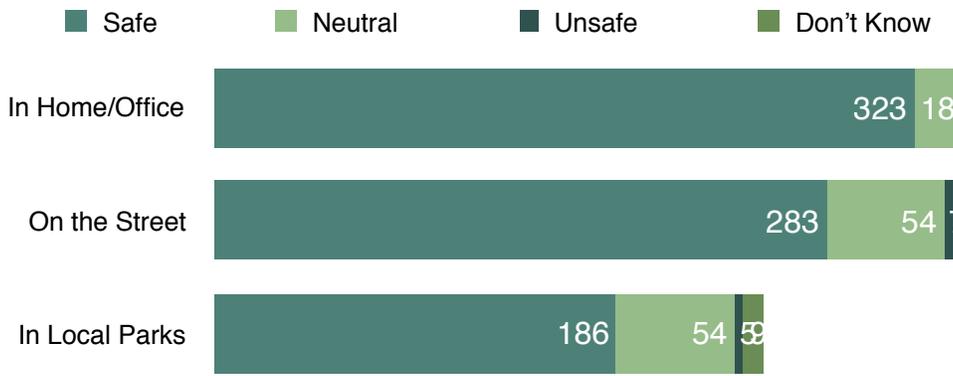
**Self Defense Class for Women and Teen** In this free class women and teens learn how to defend and escape from dangerous situation.

**Bi-annual Prescription Drug Program** The South Pasadena Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration offers this free and anonymous program to prevent pill abuse and theft by disposing potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

**School Resource Officer (SRO)** The SRO's primary responsibility is the schools while also investigating juvenile crimes. The SRO is responsible for coordinating the "Every 15 Minutes" program with the high school. The program offers real life experience designed to show teenagers the dangerous consequences of drinking and driving. A student is removed from class every 15 minutes and an obituary is read to the classmates, explaining the circumstances of the student's demise and the contributions the student has made to the school and community. A simulated alcohol related traffic collision is displayed to further enhance the reality of the program as well as a death notification made to the parents. The program emphasizes that the decision to drink alcohol can affect many people, not just the one who drinks.

**Safe Deal Zone** The South Pasadena Police Department has created a Safe Deal Zone in <http://southpasadenareview.com/?p=5892> the lobby of the police station. Residents can come to the station to conduct e-commerce transactions in a safe environment. Many residents make purchases through a variety of websites (eBay, Facebook, Craigslist, etc.) and the police station makes a safe and convenient location to conduct these transactions. The police station lobby offers 24-hour video surveillance and an emergency phone that connects directly to the police dispatch center.

**Certification:** South Pasadena Police is certified by Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) for tactical trauma care.



*2017 Survey results: A large majority of people feel safe in South Pasadena.*

## ISSUES

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety**

Every year people are severely injured or killed while moving through South Pasadena. Loss of life because of preventable traffic accidents is tragic. We should protect our most vulnerable road users, including children, older adults, and people walking and bicycling. This requires a citywide effort brings together engineers, police officers, advocates, and policymakers to work together towards creating safer streets.

### **Homeless/drugs in parks**

In 2017, South Pasadena has approximately 15 homeless people. South Pasadena Police Department officers:

- Provide extra patrols to areas such as parks, nature trails. and public and private property where homeless people tend to live;
- Work with local businesses to assist them with relocating homeless people that are sleeping on their property; and
- Work with local churches to assist the homeless and provide food, shelter, clothing, blankets, care/hygiene packages, and other local resources and services.

In an effort to address mental health issues, South Pasadena together with Arcadia, Irwindale, and Monrovia have teamed up with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to create West San Gabriel Valley Mental Evaluation team to provide mental health interventions services 40 hours a week in the four cities it serves.

### **Parking/Traffic Enforcement**

Residents have repeatedly expressed the need for additional patrols to address parking and traffic violations.

## **POLICIES AND ACTIONS**

**P7.X** Provide a high level of police service in the community.

**A7.X** Maintain an average police response time of less than 3 minutes to emergency calls for service.

**P7.X** Promote crime prevention strategies.

**A7.X** Continue to support crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs throughout the city.

**A7.X** Emphasize and prioritize crime prevention strategies such as pedestrian-scale lighting in targeted areas.

**A7.X** Reduce opportunities for criminal activity through physical design standards, recreation opportunities, educational programs, and counseling services.

**A7.X** Incorporate natural surveillance principles and best practices into development codes and review processes.

# FIRE

## INTRODUCTION

South Pasadena has a full service Fire Department that provides fire/rescue services, paramedics, safety education, inspections, plan reviews, and emergency management. The Fire Department provides for the protection of life, property, and the environment from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies, and hazardous conditions through progressive resource deployment. The Department offers Fire prevention programs and community education activities.

South Pasadena has one fire station that houses an engine company, a rescue ambulance and a light and air unit.

### Emergency Response

South Pasadena Fire Department is a member of the Verdugo Fire Communications Center, a regional communications center that fields calls for service from 12 area member cities and their 43 fire stations. The communications center was established by the Cities of Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena under a “no borders” agreement for the closest fire station to respond to a call, regardless of jurisdiction. The remaining nine jurisdictions subsequently joined the Communications Center. South Pasadena receives aid from, and provides aid to, the surrounding agencies. A typical structure fire response in the Verdugo system includes three engines, two truck companies, a rescue ambulance and a battalion chief. In this scenario South Pasadena would provide an engine and an ambulance with the balance of resources coming from adjoining agencies. When a second alarm is required South Pasadena’s Air Utility will respond.

### Emergency Medical Services

When someone calls 911 for an emergency medical response in South Pasadena the engine company with four personnel and the Rescue Ambulance with two Firefighter/Paramedics respond to deal with a wide array of possible scenarios. The engine company is staffed with at least one Firefighter/Paramedic who is authorized to initiate Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) care prior to the arrival of the rescue ambulance.

### Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau is dedicated to safety, preventing or reducing fire losses and ensuring compliance with applicable codes and ordinance. Some of the Fire Prevention Bureau responsibilities include:

- Plan check for fire and life safety;
- Issuing fire permits;
- Conducting fire and life safety inspections;

- Administration of the Annual Brush Clearance Program;
- Fire regulations; and
- Public education.

While the city is largely residential, with a mix of homes and apartments it has a wildland interface in the hill area. The Fire Department conducts annual brush inspections to ensure safety from brush fires. The high hazard area is defined as the section of the city located south of Monterey Road and west of Meridian Avenue. The property owners are required to clear dry or dangerous vegetation and hazardous brush 100 feet from any structures.

*Insert Mountain Fire Zones and 13 pinch points for parking restrictions in the hill areas.*

## **Disaster Preparedness**

The City of South Pasadena's emergency management program works in coordination with all City Departments to strengthen the City's ability to prepare for, to mitigate, to respond to and recover from any disaster. The Police Department is the lead department to coordinate all emergency management activities for the City. The City has an Emergency Management Program which includes all elements necessary to respond quickly and effectively to major emergencies. These elements include:

- Emergency Operations Plan;
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC);
- Emergency Response Program, Public Education Program; and
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

A variety of activities, programs and projects designed to enhance the City's preparedness are conducted regularly such as training, drills, and disaster exercises.

## **Emergency Operations Plan**

The 2014 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) addresses the City of planned response to emergency/disaster situations associated with natural disasters, human made emergencies, and national security emergencies. This plan is a preparedness document —designed to be read, understood and exercised prior to an emergency/disaster. The plan incorporates the concepts and principles of the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) into the emergency operations of the City of South Pasadena and the South Pasadena Unified School District. This plan is flexible enough to use in all emergencies and will facilitate response and short-term recovery activities.

*Insert FEMA Flood Zone Areas Map, Earthquake Fault & Liquefaction Zones, Earthquake Induced Landslide Zone Map  
Insert Disaster Evacuation Route Map*

## Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The EOC is located in the Fire Department. It is central command for large scale events, emergencies or disasters in South Pasadena. Areas of command are divided into five sections based on the Standard Emergency Management Systems (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS); Management, Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance. Sections are staffed by high level City of South Pasadena employees and partnering agencies.

## Connect South Pasadena

Connect South Pasadena is the City's emergency notification system that allows city officials to stay connected to residents and efficiently provide them with direction in the event of an earthquake, fire or other public emergency. Using Connect South Pasadena, City officials can record and send personalized voice messages to home phones, businesses, local agencies and mobile phones in just minutes.

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

CERT is a community based group of volunteers that have completed a federally recognized training course taught by Public Safety personnel and First Responders. South Pasadena CERT has been registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a 5-person administrative committee ensures its ongoing success. The South Pasadena Public Safety Commission's goal for CERT training is to ensure that in the event of a major disaster, if fire, police, utility, and medical personnel are outnumbered by emergencies, neighbors will be trained to help with immediate life-saving and life sustaining needs.

## Issues & Trends

**Financial uncertainty:** Increasingly, veteran fire fighters are retiring, which make attraction and retention of quality personnel a top priority. The rising costs associated with increasing pension contributions, competitive salary packages, and fire apparatus/equipment make it difficult to maintain the current staffing level at the Fire Department.

Fire Department staff works closely with the City's management team to identify funding sources. The Utility User's Tax (UUT) is a primary example of a vital funding source for public safety.

**Soft Story Retrofit:** A *soft-story building* is a structure with a weaker first *floor* that is unable to carry the weight of the stories above during an earthquake. Typically, large openings in the first floor perimeter walls for garages, tuck under parking, or large windows reduce the structural stability during an earthquake.

**Emergency Service Access:** On-street parking along the narrow and twisty streets in Monterey Hills impedes ambulance and fire trucks ability to access the area.

## **POLICIES AND ACTIONS**

**P7.X** Provide a high level of fire protection service in the community.

**A7.X** Maintain an average fire department response time of less than 3 minutes to emergency calls for service.

**A7.X** Continue to secure adequate equipment and attract and retain personnel while collaborating with neighboring jurisdiction and partner agencies to adequately respond to emergencies and incidents in all parts of the City.

**P7.X** Maintain a current Emergency Operations Plan.

**A7.X** Regularly review and update the City's safety plans every five years.

**P7.X** Minimize personal and property damage resulting from seismic hazards, including earthquakes and landslides.

**A7.X** Require all development in a geologic special studies zone to be setback 50 feet from each side of a mapped active fault trace.

**A7.X** Require structural reinforcement of all inventoried unreinforced masonry structures.

**P7.X** Minimize risk to life and property from brushfires.

**A7.X** Require fire-resistant building materials for all structures in hillside areas and encourage use of fire resistant landscaping, such as ice plant.

**A7.X** Require house sprinklers, where determined necessary by the Fire Department.

**A7.X** Require adequate fire flow and emergency access as a condition of approval for discretionary entitlements within Hillside areas.

**P7.X** Ensure the protection of all residents from geologic and groundwater hazards.

**A7.X** Require a full site-specific geologic study of any hillside site within the purview of the hillside ordinance. The study shall adequately address site-specific questions such as slope stability, erosion, subsidence, groundwater effects and earthquakes.

**A7.X** Adopt and maintain regulations controlling grading and geologic study prior to construction.