



INGLEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

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January 4, 2012

DOUBLE SUICIDE POSES PUBLIC SAFETY THREAT

The Inglewood Police Department responded to reports of a suspicious vehicle in the parking structure near Locust Street and Manchester Boulevard. Arriving officers found two deceased men who apparently committed suicide by releasing toxic chemicals inside their vehicle. The incident began at 6 p.m. on Monday evening (January 2nd) at One Locust Street. The presence of the toxic chemicals at the scene presented a serious public safety hazard to bystanders and first responders. Police Department personnel and Hazardous Materials Specialists from the Los Angeles County Fire Department evacuated the parking structure as a safety precaution. Eventually, chemical detection equipment indicated that the scene was safe for first responders to approach the vehicle.

Both men were pronounced dead at the scene; however, they remain unidentified. The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office is working with Inglewood investigators to identify them and determine an exact cause of death.

The preliminary investigation suggests the deaths were caused by a mixture of household chemicals. This unfortunate trend is known as "Chemical Suicide" or "Detergent Suicide". One of the greater complications with this type of suicide is that it puts so many people at risk of exposure. Since 2010 there have been approximately sixty-three (63) chemical suicides in the United States. Although this represents a small percentage of the 34,000 suicides reported nationally, it obligates officers to be diligent when responding to calls of this nature.

The Inglewood Police Department cautions members of the public who might come upon such incidents to keep a distance from the scene and call 911. Do not attempt to break windows or open doors to resuscitate victims. Exposure to these chemicals can overcome would-be rescuers very quickly and present a hazard to the surrounding community.

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