

# Redding Police Department

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

February 2010

## Why are cops so serious?

I receive quite a few questions asking why police officers are always so serious and rarely take a lighthearted approach to a traffic stop, field interview, or criminal investigation. I hope this newsletter will help you better understand why law enforcement officers are so focused during these events and may not be able to answer questions or take complaints from you while they are on a call.

When responding to calls, officers are always in a “what if” situation. They have to be able to read verbal and non verbal cues to determine if something isn’t right and be ready to react if something goes wrong. If something does happen, it will usually be when an officer is distracted... even just for an instant. Featured below is just a sampling of the types of weapons that are out there and it shows the need for officers to pay close attention to detail while on a call.

**Does Not Work as a Cell Phone -- only Stun Gun, Alarm and Flashlight**

- ✓ 800,000 Volts electric shock
- ✓ 100dB high pitch tone alarm
- ✓ **Immobilizing Wrist Strap** (if the wrist strap is pulled out, the stun gun will no longer shock and the alarm will automatically activate and can't be stopped until the security pin at the end of the wrist strap is replaced)
- ✓ Super bright LED flashlight
- ✓ 4.5 inch tall X 1.75 inches wide X 1 inch thick

Comes With Two FREE CR-123A Lithium Batteries **\$5.00 Value**



Comes With FREE Nylon Holster with Belt Loop **\$10.00 Value**



**Excuse me officer, can I use my phone?**

The phone on the left is actually a stun gun. It doesn't work like a regular phone but it sure looks like one. It is capable of producing 800,000 volts and can instantly incapacitate someone. On the right is a .22 caliber cell phone. You load

four rounds into this fake phone and discharge the rounds by pressing numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 on the keypad. Can you tell these are weapons?



**I dropped something on the floor...**



**But I need my wallet...**

On the left is a .40 caliber pistol mounted in a car next to the driver's right leg. This is why officers like to see your hands up on the steering wheel and not down at your sides. On the right is a wallet gun that holds a .25 caliber automatic pistol. This is why officers don't like you to put your hands in your pockets.



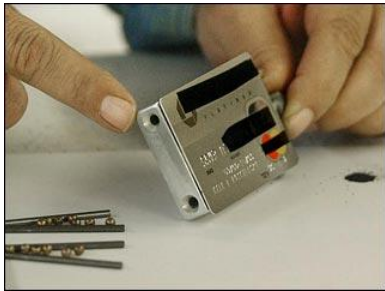
**Mind if I tie my shoe?**



**I'm having chest pain...**

Here are a few common knives that can easily be purchased over the internet. The left photo shows a knife in an ankle holster. These knives are easily accessed

by bending down to “tie a shoe” or pick something up off the ground. The right photo shows a neck chain knife. This can be accessed by faking chest pain or reaching to retrieve something from a shirt pocket. Getting nervous yet?



**Can I give my credit cards to a friend?**

On the left is a .22 caliber credit card capable of firing 2 cartridges. On the right is a credit card sized razor edge knife. These are deadly and in low lighting appear to be credit cards. There are simpler versions of the razor card out there, one being a razor blade taped to the back of a card with just the edge of the razor sticking out. Some criminals have even taped razor blades to their hats and swung them at officers to avoid arrest.



**Can lipstick be dangerous?**



**I prefer to use my own pen...**

Ladies everywhere carry lipstick in their purse. On the left we have a lipstick knife that is razor sharp and can make a ½ inch deep cut wherever it strikes. On the right is a pair of pen knives. You can't tell if these are knives until you open them

up. This is why officers will usually not allow someone to dig through a purse or use their own writing instruments. These also come in the pepper spray version.



**But it's a toy, isn't it?**

Lastly, remember when a toy gun looked like a toy gun? Now toy guns look just like the real thing and even fit in real holsters. The difference now is that there is an orange tip on toys so they can be easily identified as a toy, right? Well, in the above photo, the gun on the bottom is a toy but the top one is a real Glock .40 caliber handgun. Can you tell the difference? Most people can't.

Now try this. Pretend you are on a police call. You walk around a corner and see someone running towards you with one of the above mentioned items in their extended hand. Is it a credit card, a knife, a gun, or nothing at all? Now walk over to your microwave oven and set the timer for 1 second. Hit start, and when you hear the timer go off, you just had twice as much time to make a decision as an officer has on the street.

Why so serious? Everyone wants to go home to their family at the end of a shift.

**Have a great month!**

**Ed Ochoa, Retired RPD**

**Neighborhood Watch Coordinator**

[eochoa@reddingpolice.org](mailto:eochoa@reddingpolice.org)