



Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



Chief Art de Werk

2727 Third Street, Ceres, CA 95307
Office: (209) 538-5726 Fax: (209) 538-5707

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
News Release Contact: Sergeant Jose Berber
Email: jose.berber@ci.ceres.ca.us
Phone: (209) 538-5719

Police warn drivers to use caution while driving at night

Ceres, California - On 08/19/2011 at 10:00 PM, Ceres Police Officers responded to a report of vehicle damage that occurred in the 1100 block of Mitchell Road. During this incident a motorist was driving in the area and struck a large piece of concrete that was intentionally left in the center of the lane for oncoming motorist to hit. Once hit, the damage is extensive to the vehicle breaking several vital parts and ultimately disabling the vehicle.

This latest incident is just one of about ten prior similar incidents that have occurred in the city of Ceres alone in the past four months. In all cases, the suspects are using large pieces of concrete similar to "concrete piers" that appeared to have been dug up from construction sites. The suspects are intentionally placing the pieces of concrete on highly traveled, high speed roadways in poor lit or dark areas. All incidents have occurred from the hours of 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM.

In one incident, one of the pieces of concrete had been painted black to conceal it. In another incident the piece of concrete was placed in a black plastic trash bag.

In the city of Ceres these types of incidents have occurred on Hatch Road between Central and Moffet, Hatch Road between Mitchell and Faith Home and on Mitchell Road between Hatch and River Road. Fortunately, there have been no major physical injuries reported as a result of these incidents.

An inquiry into other local law enforcement agencies reported similar incidents have occurred throughout other areas of Stanislaus County and in the city of Modesto. Attached is a photo of a piece of concrete used in one particular incident that occurred in Ceres.

Law Enforcement urges construction sites to clean up any large concrete debris they may have during demolition projects. Additionally, anyone with suspect information should call local law enforcement and report the information. Anonymous tips can also be left through Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.

For anonymous tips:

Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.

Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME

Website: www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers

**Chris Perry,
Patrol Sergeant.**

