

# Checking for Bad Vehicles

■ **Several agencies sweep LAX and remove commercial vehicles for alleged safety issues.**

*Story by Officer Belinda Nettles, Public Information Officer; Photos courtesy Airport Police*

**AIRPORTS** — A multi-agency law enforcement operation conducted July 19 at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) resulted in seven commercial ground transportation vehicles removed from service and 72 citations issued to drivers for mechanical, misdemeanor and administrative violations.

The goal of the operation was to enhance the personal safety of the general public who use commercial ground transportation services. Travelers at airports, such as LAX, are significant audiences for commercial ground transportation providers.

Nearly 54 representatives from the Los Angeles Airport Police, California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and Los Angeles World



The Inspection Group checks a commercial shuttle van.

Airports Landside Operations conducted their inspections at the airport's limousine holding lot. A total of 289 limousines, buses, door-to-door shuttle vans and long-distance vans were inspected during the three and a half-hour operation.

The multi-agency team focused on proper driver and vehicle licensing, PUC and airport operating permits and other law enforcement-related issues. CHP officers and inspectors concentrated on mechanical equipment, including braking systems, passenger restraints, headlights, suspension and other safety systems that are required to be in good working order.

Of the 289 vehicles inspected, seven were issued misdemeanor violations for operating with a suspended/revoked PUC permit and were removed from service. One driver was cited for driving with an out-of-class license. The vehicles and driver are prohibited from further operation at LAX until violations of the airport's ground transportation operating permit program are corrected.

The team removed three additional vehicles from service for serious mechanical problems with brakes, vehicle suspension and other mechanical issues. Faulty transponders (devices attached to commercial vehicles to monitor the number of times they enter the airport's Central Terminal Area roadways) were confiscated from several vehicles. Seven drivers were issued Personal Service Citations for misdemeanor violations, including driving out-of-class and or without valid PUC permits. Fines for these citations vary, and the drivers must show proof of correction before they can resume for-hire operation.



Commercial vehicles in line for inspections at a Vehicle Inspection site.



■ **Emergency Preparedness Fairs scheduled in September.**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS** — On Saturday, Sept. 8, the City will kick off its 16th annual Emergency Preparedness Fair. This year's theme is "Dare to Prepare," and it will be held on four days, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The dates and locations are:

- Sat., Sept. 8: Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Shopping Center, 1671 E. 103rd St., Los Angeles;
- Sat., Sept. 15: Westfield Fashion Square, 14006 Riverside Dr., Sherman Oaks;
- Thurs., Sept. 20: Seventh Street and Figueroa Plaza, 725 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles; and
- Sat., Sept. 29: Westchester Park, 7000 W. Manchester Ave. Westchester.

Under the leadership of the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department, represen-

# Dare to Prepare

tatives will be present from Fire, Police, DWP, Airports, Transportation, Animal Services, Rec and Parks, Building and Safety, Department on Disabilities, Los Angeles Unified School District, American Red Cross and others who play a significant role in helping people during and after earthquakes, fires, floods, landslides and other natural or man-made disasters.

The Emergency Preparedness Department provides Citywide emergency management program leadership, continuity, and direction to enable the City and its partners to respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impact of natural, manmade or technological disasters upon its people or property.

During an actual disaster, all television media outlets are strongly urged to follow FCC regulations. This will ensure that all verbal information is closed captioned and provided visually for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Additionally, any visual information, e.g., "crawlers" will be verbalized for the benefit of the blind and visually impaired community.

## CLUB PHOTO FEATURE



Manuel Orantes, U.S. Air Force, and Ernesto Orantes, U.S. Marines, are in the military and sons of Maria Orantes, Airports.

## The Club in the Armed Forces

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