

AIRPORTS

Checking For Safety

Airport Police, other agencies inspect cabs, limos at LAX.

Story by Sgt. Belinda Nettles, Public Information Officer, Airport Police; Photos by Officer Darius Lewis, Airport Police

On Sept. 19, a multi-agency law enforcement operation conducted at LAX resulted in one commercial ground transportation vehicle removed from service, 42 citations issued to drivers for administrative and mechanical violations and two drivers removed from service.

"This operation is part of a proactive approach by Airport Police and our partner agencies to provide the traveling public with safe commercial transportation to and from LAX," said Airport Police Chief Patrick Gannon. He added, "Air travelers rely heavily on commercial ground transportation services, and it's important to ensure these providers are complying with all laws."

More than 40 representatives from the Airport Police Commercial Enforcement and Motors units, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the LAX Airport Operations Ground Transportation Section, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) conducted their inspections starting at 8:30 a.m. Inspections were conducted at three locations: Limousine Holding Lot (intersection of Westchester Parkway and Jenny Street); LAX Parking Lot F (intersection of Avion Drive and Century Boulevard); and the Upper/Departures Level on the east end of Terminal 7. A total of 359 door-to-door shuttle vans, limousines and buses were inspected during the four-hour operation.

The multi-agency team focused on proper driver and vehicle licenses, transponders, PUC



Inspecting vehicles on the limousine holding lot.

and airport operating permits, and proper commercial insurance. Airport Police officers and CHP inspectors concentrated on mechanical equipment, including brakes, seat belts, tires, headlights and safety systems that are required to be in good working order, and other law-enforcement-related issues. Of the 359 vehicles inspected, one vehicle was taken out of service for a licensing permit violation.

Thirteen drivers were issued Personal Service Citations for misdemeanor violations. Another 39 drivers were cited for administrative violations, including serious mechanical problems, improper insurance, driving with an out-of-class license, and invalid or no PUC permits. Fines for these citations vary, and the drivers must show proof of correction before they can resume for-hire operation. In addition, 5 warnings by CHP and 147 observation reports were issued by the PUC.



Inspecting vehicles on the shuttle van holding lot.



Inspecting ground transportation vehicles on the upper level of Terminal 7.



Inspecting vehicles on the limousine holding lot.

CITY EMPLOYEES AT WORK

As observed by Noelle Kauffman, Club Counselor.

Here's Club Member **Joe Russell, Public Safety Officer**, 28 years of City service, at usual perch as the guard at the LAPD Police Academy. He has a copy of a previous appearance in *Alive!* displayed inside his information booth. We love to hear that, Joe. Good to see you again!

Do you have a photo of City Employees on the job?
Send it in and we might print it! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

THE SMART MOVE

BY PATRICK MILLER
Dearborn Insurance
The Club's Insurance Partner

Critical Illness: Could It Happen To You?

Statistically, you are far more likely to suffer and survive a critical illness than die before you retire. One large insurer states that the likelihood is five times greater. What are the implications for the average person? You may well have life insurance coverage, but you probably do not have insurance against critical illness, even though the risk of experiencing one before you are 65 is high. Fortunately, with medical advances, the chances of surviving a critical illness are very good. Most folks have medical insurance that would cover the cost of a hospital stay, procedures, etc. But medical insurance does not pay your salary if you lose your job or have to take extended leave. It does not cover you for care you may need at home or a period of convalescence that requires your spouse to miss work to care for you. This is where critical illness insurance would determine the kind of lifestyle you can expect after such an illness.

What is a critical illness?

It could be one of more than 40 clearly defined illnesses, conditions or disabilities. Almost 90 percent of actual cases, however, are related to cancer (the biggest culprit, especially for women), heart disease (particularly for men) and stroke.

But why be concerned if you are still young? Because the average age of a claimant in 2007, according to one of the largest providers of critical illness insurance, was only 44!

Could it happen to you? Well, it has certainly happened to a lot of famous people, among them Mohammad Ali (Parkinson's disease at 42), Eva Peron (cancer at 32), Kylie Minogue (cancer at 37), Olivia Newton-John (cancer at 44), Bill Clinton (heart bypass at 58), and Lance Armstrong (cancer at 25). The difference between all these famous people and you and me is that they would have had to cope just with the illness, not the financial burden that would have accompanied it. If you add to the list all the friends and family you know who have similarly been struck with a critical illness, you will probably agree that while the odds of reaching retirement without suffering one are still on your side, the odds that you will suffer one are pretty large as well.

Don't get bogged down with the stats that say you are likely to go through a critical illness before you retire. Enjoy life and all it has to offer, but do yourself and your family a favor and cover the risk with a critical illness policy.

The Club's new partner, Dearborn National Insurance, is a leader in critical illness insurance, having been the first U.S. company to create and distribute this type of policy.

Patrick Miller represents Dearborn Insurance, the Club's new partner for two areas—critical illness insurance and retirement income. Currently, the Club offers three Dearborn products: the Security Builder Plan, the Timber Ridge Critical Illness Plan, and Paycheck Protection Plus. Ask your Club Counselor for details.

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