



Alcohol Theft Reduction

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Vista Patrol Station

More commonly referred to as...

...“Beer Runs”

In a “beer run,” one or more individuals enter a store, take beer, wine or liquor, run out of the store, and depart in a waiting vehicle parked outside the store.





California Penal Code

Theft is divided into two degrees:

- 488 – Petty Theft
- 487 – Grand Theft
A value exceeding \$950
- 459C – Commercial Burglary
Every person who enters any structure with the intent to commit grand or petit larceny or any felony is guilty of burglary
- 211 – Robbery
Robbery is the taking of personal property in the possession of another, from his person or immediate presence, and against his will, accomplished by means of force or fear

Example – Petty Theft

“An unknown male entered the (store)...and removed two 12 packs of beer from the cooler section. The suspect left the store without paying.”





Example – Robbery

“Three male suspects approached the convenience store. Two of the suspects entered the store while one remained outside. One suspect grabbed two 12-packs of beer and wanted to purchase them. Since it was after 0200 hrs., the clerk would not sell to the suspects. He became upset and walked towards the door that the clerk was blocking. All three suspects attacked the clerk and then fled the store.”

3 accused of stealing beer, fight off store manager



FOX 5 San Diego Staff

January 2, 2011

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LA MESA, Calif. — A liquor store manager is recovering from injuries he suffered during an attempt to stop two teens and one man accused of stealing beer from his store, police said Sunday.

La Mesa Police Department said three suspects entered the Eastridge Liquor Store on the 7700 block of University Avenue around 5 p.m. Sunday and placed beer in a backpack and started to walk out of the store without paying.

The manager attempted to stop the them, but they fought back with one pulling out a knife, police said. The suspects ran out of the store. The manager refused medical treatment for his injuries.

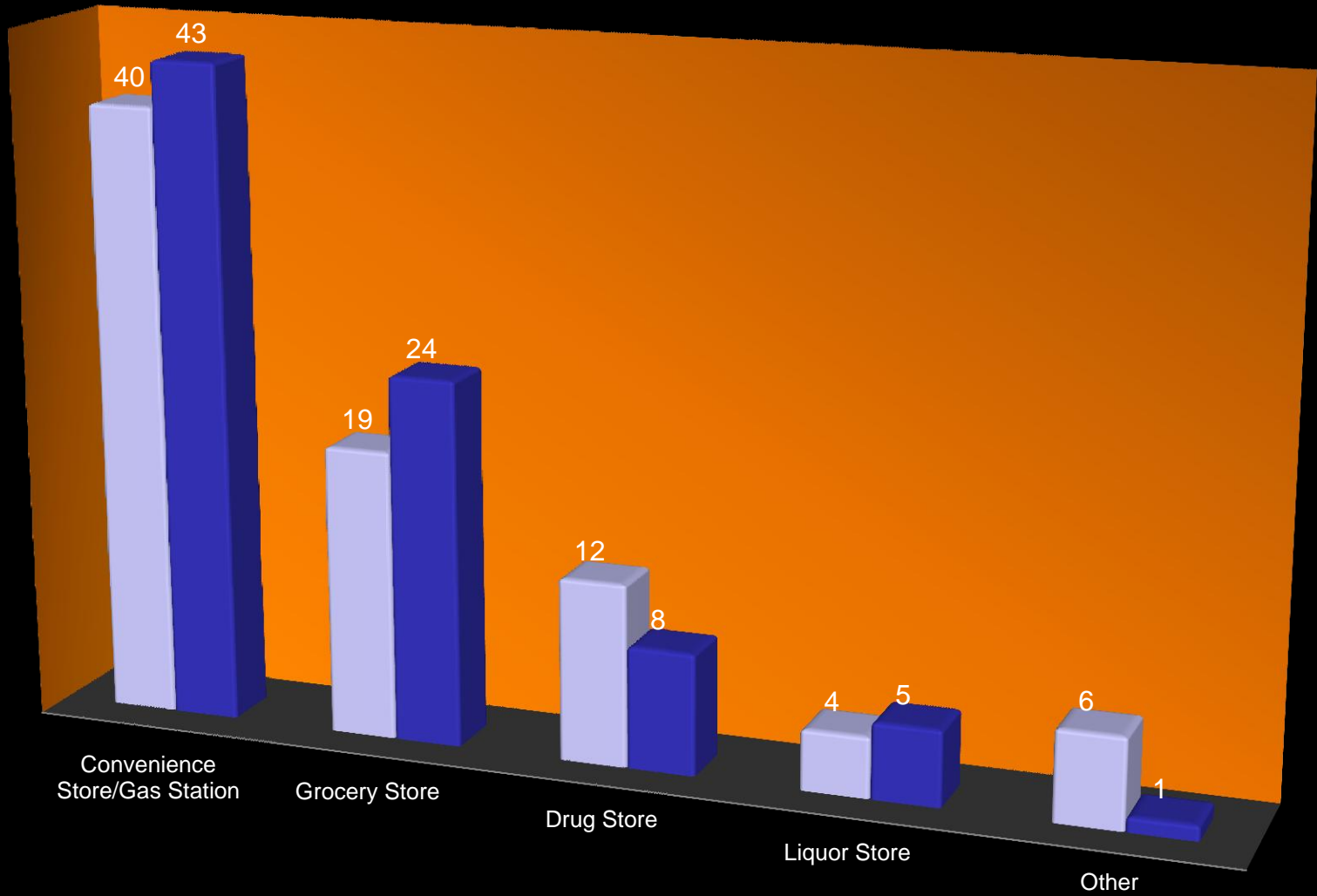


Overview

- In 2009 and 2010 there were 81 reported alcohol thefts, burglaries, and robberies each year
- In 2009 there were 61 “Off Sale” ABC licenses
- Convenience stores/gas stations make up 24% of the “Off Sale” ABC licenses, yet they account for 49% of the alcohol-related thefts, burglaries, and robberies

City of Vista Alcohol Thefts

■ 2009 ■ 2010





Other things to consider

- The following crimes and arrests were not included: driving under the influence, under the influence of drugs/alcohol, disturbance, etc.
- Not all businesses report these types of crime
- Some businesses contact law enforcement but do not want a report taken



Consequences

- Businesses lose customers due to fear of crime
- Alcohol-related crimes continue or increase
- Loss to businesses may result in a price increase to customers
- Possible increase in the number of violent alcohol-related incidents

Objective:

Reduce the number of alcohol thefts





Benefits

- Increase safety of employees and customers
- Reduce underage drinking by limiting access to juveniles
- Reduce other associated crimes (e.g., drunk in public)
- Decrease amount of loss for business owners
- Improve the quality of life for Vista residents

Cost Savings

In 2009, the Average AC (arrival to clear) Time per call was 46 minutes. At an approximate cost of \$123 per hour, the annual savings is estimated to be at least \$7,808.





Additional Cost Savings

The time it takes for the detective to investigate the case and testify in court.

- Of the 81 calls for service in 2009, 46% were suspended
- Less than 1% were submitted to the District Attorney

Other methods have been tried...

Industry Resources Convenience Store Security Report

- One clerk vs. Two clerks
 - Overall, no statistically significant effect on robbery rate reduction
- Closed circuit interactive television systems
 - First year reduction, second year increase



National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) – July 1, 2007



Recommendations

Propose a new City of Vista ordinance that would require all convenience stores/gas stations to implement the following Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) requirements:

- Electric locks on cooler doors containing alcohol
 - Coolers are to remain locked at all times and be equipped with a time-lock
 - Customers must present ID before cooler can be unlocked by cashier
- No alcohol displays are allowed on the store floor



Other California Cities

City of Ventura, CA

- January 18, 2011
- “Coolers containing alcohol must have a locking device and be locked during the prohibited time of alcohol sales (between 12:00 AM and 7:00 AM).”

City of Clovis, CA

- September 23, 2010
- “The applicant shall work with the Clovis Police Department to develop or incorporate locking mechanism for the cold box doors where the beer and wine will be stored.”

Company Standard



- In November 2009, an Arco AM/PM representative stated all newly constructed AM/PMs have more requirements than the City of Vista. He cited these two examples:

ARCO/BP

Gas Station/Mini Mart Beer/Wine Sale Requirements

(additional to city requirements)

- “Beer and Wine cooler doors to have automatic locks controlled by cashier”
- “Registers to use electronic scanner for I.D. age verification”

A background of red, vertically pleated curtains with a scalloped valance at the top. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the fabric.

Conclusion