

PRESS RELEASE

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Los Banos Police and Fire Departments Begin Installation of Computers in Vehicles

Installation began earlier this week on new, Mobile Digital Computers (MDC's) in 16 of the Police Departments patrol vehicles and two portable lap tops in Police Detective vehicles.

The computers, purchased from Coban Technologies of Stafford, Texas, will allow officers the ability to access DMV records, the Police Department's Records Management System to complete and review police reports, run warrants checks, and receive calls for service, all from inside the vehicle.

The vehicles will also have a vehicle locating system that allows our dispatch center to route the closest unit to priority calls from one of the 52 inch television monitors mounted in the Police Department dispatch center; and video cameras that have the ability to record many of the officer's daily contacts.

The Fire Department will begin installation of 12 similar mobile computers in the next month. The Fire Department units will assist in fire prevention planning, mapping and will be linked to Thermal Imaging cameras. The computers will aid in building pre-planning for a quicker response and will increase safety for Fire Department personnel.

"This project is a big technological step forward for the Police Department. It is designed to make our staff more efficient in the field, and provide an additional level of security for our officers on patrol."

Chris Gallagher, Chief of Police

This technology upgrade for Los Banos Public Safety was made possible through the passage of 2004's Measure P, a ½ cent sales tax. Both Chiefs are very thankful to the citizens of Los Banos for their overwhelming support of the measure, for without it, this upgrade would not have been possible.

The Police Department's installation period will take several weeks, with the camera system being up and running first. The remainder of the technology will be up after the first of the year.

The estimated cost for both the Fire and Police MDC's is \$800,000.