



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, October 9, 2008
Contact: Sergeant Ed Collins
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Two overnight child deaths investigated

Riverside, CA – In the early morning hours of Thursday, October 9, 2008, the Riverside Police Department Communications Center received two separate and unrelated calls of children found not breathing in their respective homes.

The Riverside Fire Department and American Medical Response ambulance personnel responded along with Riverside Police officers to both locations. Shortly after 2:30 a.m., at a home in the 20400-block of Bloomfield Road, a six-week old girl was pronounced dead after life-saving efforts were unsuccessful. At about 6 a.m., at a home in the 10200-block of Hedrick Avenue, a seven-month old child was transported from the home via ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Detectives from the Riverside Police Department Centralized Investigations Bureau responded to both locations to conduct the investigations. The preliminary investigations have focused on both deaths as being attributed to co-sleeping. No arrests have been made and the causes of death are undetermined, pending autopsies. Due to the ages, the names of the deceased are being withheld.

Law Enforcement recognizes the practice of co-sleeping as controversial and potentially dangerous, and discourages it. Two of the common dangers of co-sleeping have included crushing and suffocating a child sleeping alongside an adult. A safe practice for infants and young children is to have them sleep alone in their own bed.

Anyone with information related to these investigations is urged to contact Detective Roberta Hopewell at (951) 353-7124.

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