



FBI PRESS RELEASE

LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE -
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CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE SEARCH FOR UNIDENTIFIED BANK ROBBER WHO CONDUCTED AT LEAST 15 TAKEOVER BANK ROBBERIES IN PAST FOUR MONTHS

The FBI and various police and sheriffs departments in the state of California are seeking the public's assistance in learning the identification and/or whereabouts of an unidentified armed bank robber nicknamed the "Sleeves Bandit."

The Sleeves Bandit was named for what appear to be fake tattoo sleeves he has worn during some of the listed bank robberies. Investigators believe that on at least fifteen occasions, the Sleeves Bandit has committed one-man, armed takeover bank robberies throughout the state of California, from as far south as La Crescenta to as far north as Madera and Monterey.

The Sleeves Bandit has established a pattern of robbing the banks at or near closing time. Upon entering the bank, the Sleeves Bandit brandishes a handgun, orders employees and customers to the floor, and proceeds to rob multiple tellers.

Witnesses have described the Sleeves Bandit as a white male, early to mid 50s, short white or gray hair, 5'10" - 6' tall, medium build and weighing 180-200 lbs. He always wears a hat, sunglasses and some form of face covering. Initially, he wore ski-type masks, but has recently been described as wearing something that resembles a mesh, mosquito-type or beekeeper netting. In at least one robbery, victims described a heavy smell of alcohol on the bandit's breath.

During one robbery, the Sleeves Bandit carried pepper spray, which he used on the victim teller, evidently because she did not comply quickly enough. This robbery and assault occurred at a Citibank in La Crescenta on 12/26/08.

The Sleeves Bandit is believed to be responsible for at least 15 bank robberies since November 26th, 2008. Below is a list of banks robberies believed to be linked to the Sleeves Bandit:

11/26/2008	Washington Mutual Bank	Carmel
12/05/2008	Washington Mutual Bank	Aptos
12/15/2008	Citibank	Carmel

12/26/2008	Citibank	La Crescenta
01/02/2009	First Bank of San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo
01/09/2009	US Bank	Aptos
01/16/2009	Los Padres Bank	Goleta
01/16/2009	Santa Barbara Bank & Trust	Goleta
01/30/2009	Citibank	La Canada
02/05/2009	Comerica Bank	Monterey
02/24/2009	Citibank	Madera
02/28/2009	Citibank	Carmel
03/17/2009	Heritage Oaks Bank	Morro Bay
03/20/2009	The Golden 1 Credit Union	Atascadero
03/21/2009	Wescom Credit Union	Santa Barbara

This statewide search to apprehend the Sleeves Bandit is a collaborative effort by several agencies in California, including the FBI and the following police and sheriff's departments:

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
 Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department
 San Luis Obispo Police Department
 Santa Barbara Police Department
 Morro Bay Pd
 Monterey County Sheriff's Department
 Monterey PD
 Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department
 Madera PD

Bank surveillance photographs from each of the 15 robberies are being released to the media. Additional photographs from individual robberies are available upon request. Anyone with information as to the identity or whereabouts of the Sleeves Bandit is urged to contact the FBI or their local law enforcement agency. In Los Angeles, the FBI may be reached 24 hours a day by calling 1 888 CANT HIDE (or 888 226-8443). In San Francisco, the FBI may be reached 24 hours a day by calling 415 553-7400. In Sacramento, the FBI may be reached 24 hours a day by calling 916 481-9110. Additional information regarding bank robberies in Southern California can be found by visiting www.labankrobbers.org.

Reward money is available in exchange for valuable information. Information provided to the FBI will be kept confidential and anonymity is guaranteed.

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