

## Street Crime Crackdown Begins Near Coliseum

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# Street Crime Crackdown Begins Near Coliseum

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A 50-member task force of uniformed police and undercover vice and narcotics officers was fielded in the Coliseum area Friday in a pre-Olympic crackdown on street crime.

Narcotics dealers, prostitutes, car thieves and burglars will be targeted by the task force, which will remain in the area until mid-July, when it will be replaced by the Olympics Major Crime Task Force.

Capt. Andy Mathes, task force commander, said that officers will maintain patrols elsewhere in the area despite the concentration of officers in the vicinity of the Coliseum. "We don't expect any sudden rise in crime outside Exposition Park because someone thinks we don't have enough policemen," he said.

In addition to crime suppression, task force officers will advise business owners and residents of the Exposition Park area of unusual parking conditions and expected traffic problems during the Games.

Meanwhile, more than 50 local

and federal law enforcement and transportation agencies participated in "Operation Torchlight III," a dress rehearsal for Olympic security and traffic control.

Security officials gathered Friday at Los Angeles' mammoth Piper Technical Center, and transportation experts got together at the Caltrans Traffic Coordination Center, which will serve as communications centers during the Games. A

similar security rehearsal was conducted in San Diego, site of a one-day Olympic equestrian event.

Participants reacted to more than 400 simulated incidents ranging from minor traffic tie-ups to a major terrorist attack using a biological warfare device at the Rose Bowl. All of the fictitious incidents were designed to test the responses of the communications network that will link Olympic security forces.