



# CATHEDRAL CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** November 8, 2007  
**From:** Sergeant Paul Herrera  
**Event:** Off-Highway Vehicle Task-Force Deployment

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The Cathedral City Police Department's OHV (off-highway vehicle) Team was created in 2002 for the purpose of enforcing state and local laws related to illegal off-road activity in the Flat-top Mountain / Edom Hill area. This area of the Coachella Valley was once a pristine, scenic spot that greeted highway travelers and visitors to our Valley. This area borders the natural habitat for a number of endangered species that are unique to the Coachella Valley. Recently, the area has been plagued by renegade riders, scarring the hillside and landscape while creating additional environmental issues – refuse-dumping, illegal campfires, noise pollution, dangerous dust and emissions - while deteriorating the once-scenic hillside known as "The Shovel."

In 2006, the city of Cathedral City partnered with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) who provided financial support for the City's enforcement efforts. For the last few years, CVAG has assisted in the development of a plan to minimize OHV riding throughout Cathedral City. This plan has included public education, media releases, improved signage and continued enforcement. Cathedral City is the only municipality in the Coachella Valley (and one of the few in the State) that has created and enacted a municipal code that prohibits all OHV use anywhere in City Limits, including all private property. With all of these components implemented, Cathedral City residents have seen a dramatic decrease in OHV activity.

This successful partnership has been a model for the CVAG OHV "task-force." The idea of successful OHV enforcement - shared by all the public safety agencies of the Coachella Valley – has been successfully organized and is comprised of the following agencies: the City of Indio, the City of Desert Hot Springs, the City of Cathedral City, the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Riverside County Sheriff Department (Indio Station and Palm Desert Station). CVAG has obtained a "Colmac" grant to assist in funding portions of this endeavor and all participating agencies have committed personnel and equipment to the task-force.

The task-force plans approximately 20 deployment days throughout the OHV season in various portions of the Coachella Valley, from Whitewater to the Salton Sea, and all points in between. In the future, the exact locations and times of deployment will not be released to the public as it is the intention of the task-force to locate and identify illegal riding and enforce city, county and state laws as necessary.

Because of the effectiveness of print and television media, we are releasing information on the first deployment date, hosted by the Cathedral City Police Department:

**November 10<sup>th</sup>, throughout the day at various locations throughout Cathedral City (and bordering areas of Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms and Palm Springs). Cathedral City Police Sergeant Paul Herrera (760-770-0313 / pherrera@cathedralcity.gov) is organizing the deployment and will be available to media anytime after 0900 hrs. in the area north of Interstate 10 and Date Palm Drive. Additional questions can be addressed to Aurora Kerr, Director of Community Resources at CVAG / 760-346-1127.**