



September 19, 2007

COMMUNITY ALERT - Counterfeit \$100 bills

Over the past three years, the Berkeley Police Department has received an increased number of reports of counterfeit \$100 bills being passed at businesses throughout the city.

The counterfeit \$100 bills circulating are actually \$5 bills that have been bleached and replaced with \$100 bill markings. **Since the bill is printed on currency paper, it will not be detected by currency checking pens.**

The BPD Property Crimes Detail would like to offer the following tips for detecting counterfeit bills:

- **Check the watermark on the bill** - The counterfeit \$100 bills show a water mark for a \$5 bill (Lincoln) and not for the \$100 bill*(Franklin) (*see image below)
- **Check the security strip** - The strip should match the denomination: "USA FIVE", "USA TEN", "USA TWENTY", etc.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself and your employees with the security features of US currency, especially higher denominations. US Department of the Treasury: <http://www.moneyfactory.com>
- Consider not accepting cash denominations over twenty or fifty dollars.



For further information or resources regarding this alert, please contact the Property Crimes Detail (Fraud Unit) at (510) 981-5739.

If you notice any suspicious individual(s) attempting to pass counterfeit bills, please contact BPD's non-emergency line at (510) 981-5900. If the crime is in progress, dial 911.