

Summary Reporting System Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What recovered values are submitted on the Supplement to Return A?

A: The recovery of property should be reported only by the LEA who first reported it missing and/or stolen regardless of which agency recovered it. Page 22 of the SRS User Manual.

We were also told that we should send in a LEOKA even when there was not a charge filed. Yes, this is correct. Since these crime statistics are intended to assist law enforcement in identifying the crime problems, participants record offense counts, not the findings of the court, coroner, or jury or the decision of the prosecutor. Page 20 of the SRS User Manual.

Q: Should assaults on a peace officer be counted on the Return A?

A: Yes. The number of assault included on your LEOKA Report must match the number of assaults on your Return A.

Q: Are attempts to assault a peace officer to have a LEOKA completed?

A: Yes. "Reporting agencies count all assaults resulting in serious injury or assaults in which a weapon was used and could have caused serious injury or death. Other assaults not causing injury are also reported if the assault involved more than mere verbal abuse or minor resistance to an arrest, including abrasions, minor lacerations, contusions or other injuries requiring no more than usual first-aid treatment. In short, reporting agencies include in this section all assaults on officers, whether or not the officers sustained injuries" (Page 148, SRS User Manual).

Q: I have a Domestic Assault offense, subject arrested/cited. Do I report that on both the UCR and the DV report?

A: Yes, the assault would be counted on the Return A and the Domestic Violence Report.

Q: How should agencies classify and score thefts of drones?

A: SRS agencies: Law enforcement agencies should report all drones as (K) Miscellaneous on the Supplement to Return A Monthly Offenses Known to Police report.

Q: In my agency, we have been discussing how to classify and score incidents in which an individual reached over the counter of an establishment and stole something. Would that be classified as a larceny-theft or as a burglary?

A: SRS agencies: In the UCR Program, burglary is defined as "the unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft," and a structure is defined as having four walls, a roof, and a door. An element of trespass is essential to burglary offenses.

If an individual enters an establishment that is open to the general public and reaches over the counter, the counter does not meet the definition of a structure for UCR purposes. Therefore, the agency should classify and score the event as a larceny-theft and not as a burglary.

However, if an individual enters an establishment (that is open to the general public) through a door that is marked as "employee's only" or "authorized personnel only," etc., and they take something, then the individual has trespassed into a structure, which meets the UCR definition of a burglary.

In addition, if an individual smashes a glass counter and grabs contents from within the counter in a store that is open to the public, the agency should classify and score the event a larceny-theft from a building. If the smash-and-grab occurs within the presence of others who are put in fear, the agency could classify the event as a robbery.

Q: While carjacking a sport utility vehicle (SUV), an individual shot two people inside the SUV— injuring them but not killing them. Police arrested the individual an hour later. How should this incident be classified and scored?

A: SRS agencies: Because the crime occurred in the same time and place, the agency should report only the robbery. The SRS uses the Hierarchy Rule, which states that only the highest ranking Part I offense should be reported. The order of offenses following the Hierarchy Rule is: criminal homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft. According to pages 23 and 24 of the SRS User Manual, “When more than one Part I offense is classified, the Hierarchy Rule requires the LEA (law enforcement agency) locates the offense is highest on the hierarchy list and score only that offense (Version 1.0, dated June 20, 2013). Because the offense of robbery is higher on the list than aggravated assault, the agency should classify and score one robbery.

Q: Does it specifically state in any UCR Program manual to exclude crimes that occur in jails or prisons?

A: NIBRS and SRS agencies: No. Crimes that occur in jails or prisons are to be reported to the national UCR Program by the law enforcement agency having the investigative jurisdiction of the jail or prison.

Q: Officers with Agency A conducted a traffic stop and discovered that the vehicle had been stolen from another jurisdiction (Agency B). In addition, the car’s occupants were in possession of property that was stolen from another jurisdiction (Agency B). How should we report this incident to the national UCR Program?

A: For SRS agencies: “The purpose of establishing jurisdiction is to depict the nature and volume of crime in a particular community, not for an agency to claim or take credit for the number of investigations, arrests, etc., or to serve as a measurement of agency workload,” (Summary UCR Program Quarterly 16-3 10 July 2016 Reporting System [SRS] User Manual, Version 1.0, dated June 20, 2013, page 22). In addition, “The recovery of property should be reported only by the agency from whose jurisdiction it was stolen, regardless of who or which agency recovered it” (page 22).

Agency A should report an arrest for the Part II offense of Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possessing on the appropriate Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity of Persons Arrested report. Agency A should also contact Agency B where the vehicle and items were taken from to inform them of the physical recovery.

Agency B should report the recovery of property for UCR reporting purposes, as the property was originally stolen from its jurisdiction.

Q: John Doe is a frequent shoplifter at a local Wal-Mart. After John’s most recent arrest for shoplifting, the Wal-Mart store mails him a letter informing him that he is banned from entering the store. When John is later caught shoplifting in the same store, is the UCR offense Larceny or Burglary?

A: This would be classified as a burglary (unlawful entry into a structure to commit a felony or theft) as the offender was expressly prohibited from reentering the store. Remember: Larceny + trespass + structure= burglary.

Q: An offender posts material over a social media site threatening to harm the victim if they ever saw them on the street and informed the victim they knew where they lived. How should this be reported?

A: This offense should be reported as Other Assaults-Simple, Not Aggravated (4e). This category allows agencies to report Offenses such as intimidation, coercion, hazing, and stalking. If this particular offense is taken to another level where the victim reasonably fears bodily harm through the use of threatening words and or conduct, this would still be reported as Other Assaults- Simple, Not Aggravated (4e). Intimidation can happen in person, over the phone, and in writing. This can be done without displaying a weapon or actually physically attacking the victim.

Q: Some expensive tools were taken from a store. Store employees found a less expensive item removed from its original packaging. The police determined that the offender removed the less expensive item from its packaging in order to replace it with a more expensive one. The offender paid for the more expensive item that was in the less expensive packaging. How should this be reported?

A: This should be reported as a fraud offense. Fraud “consists of some deceitful practice or willful device, resorted to deprive another or in some way to do an injury.” (UCR Handbook, pgs. 24-25) By removing an item from its packaging and replacing it with another item the offender manipulated the value of the item.

Q: A disgruntled employee of a mining company steals a train and derails it. How would this be reported?

A: This would be reported as Larceny theft-all other (6i). Larceny is the “unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.” (UCR Handbook, pg. 46) The UCR Program defines constructive possession as “the condition in which a person does not have physical custody or possession, but is in a position to exercise dominion or control over a thing.” (UCR Handbook, pg. 46) The employee of the company had constructive possession of the train but unlawfully took it.

Q: The local police department responds to an incident. A federal agency has jurisdiction over the case and takes over the investigation. How should report the offense?

A: The local police department should report the offense in their UCR report. Federal agencies do not report their arrests to the national UCR program.