

## **According to JSA, Jewelry Crime Up in 2008**

Crimes against the jewelry industry were up almost 17% in 2008, with 1,505 individual acts reported and dollar losses of \$103.5 million. California, Florida and Texas had the highest incidence rates, as was the case in 2007.

Losses in 2006 were \$110.2 million, and went down to \$97.1 million in 2007, and reversing the trend of less crime continuously reported over the past few years. There were 425 arrests for the 1,505 crimes reported, down from 446 arrests in 2007.

Grab and run crime increased 49% in 2008, with 362 cases reported. Only two jewelers were killed in 2008, down from 10 to 15 a decade ago. JSA president John Kennedy believes that some of the grab and run incidents were committed by amateurs impacted by the poor economy, but that historically there is no correlation between jewelry crime and an economic downturn.

Jewelers in California should be particularly careful at this time, as a high amount of incidents were reported in January and February. There were incidences of armed robbery in Beverly Hills and Long Beach, smash and grab in Sacramento and Sherman Oaks, and off premises theft in Los Angeles and Sunnyvale.

**JSIS Insurance, March 2009**