

Graffiti in Metro

The Metro Police Department's Gang Unit investigates most graffiti vandalism crimes, and pays close attention to those that indicate gang activities, messages or expansion of territory. In general, taggers use a more artistic style with their graffiti work, versus gang graffiti, which is very crude and commonly includes symbols associated with the gang.

Below are a few examples of graffiti Metro residents are likely to see throughout the city, and are encouraged to report to the Graffiti Task Force at 880-2444.



Both of these are examples of tagging, characterized by the use of color and artistic style writing.



This depicts graffiti by the Blood Gang, indicated by the use of red paint, “blood” spelled out and the 5-pointed star. “CRAB” (with backwards “c”) is a negative term towards a rival gang, the Crips.



Brown Pride gang graffiti is known by use of the symbol “218.” Here the name is spelled out, but sometimes only the letters BP are mixed in with the graffiti.



Use of blue paint is often associated with Crips gang graffiti. In this example, Crips is clearly spelled out, as well as “98 Mafia,” which is a set of (or sub-group within) the Crips.

The letters G and D (which are equal to the numbers 7 and 4) are indications that this graffiti is work of Gangster Disciples. The 6-pointed star is a symbol commonly used by “Folk Nation” gangs, of which Gangster Disciples are a member.





Sur 13 graffiti is the mark of Surreno 13 gang, which commonly uses blue paint. The three dots forming a triangle is a symbol often used by latino gangs.



This example depicts Mara Salvatrucha or MS 13 graffiti, which is rare and commonly perpetrated by younger individuals in the gang or by those wanting to emulate the gang.