

Anthony, N.M., Target Of Tagging Spree

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ANTHONY, N.M. -- Taggers targeted Anthony, N.M., overnight, leaving a mess in their wake. They tagged dozens of homes and businesses near First Street.

Gang experts fear the markings may be a precursor for violence.

Armando Beltran was outside in the triple-digit heat Tuesday re-painting his building after taggers destroyed it. "Kids are out from school and they've got noting to do," he said.

Some would call it art but gang experts know better.

"If it is done without permission, it is almost always vandalism," Rob Gallardo, with Operation No Gangs told KFOX.

"Graffiti to gang counselors is known as the newspaper to the streets. Whenever a gang wants to announce what it is going to be doing it will announce it with graffiti," he said.

Experts tell KFOX the rash in tagging does not correlate directly with violence and they don't expect gang violence to go up this year compared to last.