



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CIRCULAR

Spring/Summer
2009

*Creating a community network to provide a
safer place to live!*

**Neighborhood
Watch.....It's not just
Crime Prevention
any more!**



Community
Police
Fire

Health & Human Services
American Red Cross

Solicitors, Flyers and Frustration! Are these people allowed in my neighborhood?

By Officer Mike Sveta

The growth of the City and County of Broomfield has attracted many people to our community. Some want to be residents, or desire to do business in the city, while others are just visiting. Unfortunately, along with rapid growth come people who intend to capitalize on the fears and frustrations of those of us who chose to call Broomfield home.

Many business people have taken the opportunity to go door to door in neighborhoods offering, and sometimes pushing, various products and services. Most are legitimate businesses trying to beat the competition by taking their marketing to the streets. However, you also have a right to privacy in your home and this has raised several questions about the legality and legitimacy of the persons engaging in these practices.

Many people are not aware that there is a distinction between a door to door sales person (solicitor) who actually attempts to speak with a homeowner about a product or service, and a person who only hangs flyers (handbills or circulars) advertising a product or service. The laws are also different regarding these people.

A solicitor must obtain a "Solicitor's License" from the City Clerk's office.

A badge is issued and shall be worn in plain site while they are conducting business. Door-to-door solicitation can be conducted from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and is not permitted on Sundays and holidays. If you wish to keep solicitors from knocking on your door you may post a sign which reads "No Solicitors".

A person distributing flyers, circulars, or handbills is not required to obtain a license, and there are no restrictions to the hours that this activity is permitted. However, the flyer shall be secured in such a way that it will not blow about the yards and streets. If you wish to keep the distribution of flyers, circulars, or handbills from being left on your property you may post a sign that reads "No Handbill's".

The Broomfield Police Department aggressively patrols neighborhoods to deter crime and to make you feel safe. We want you to know that we care about the quality of life in your neighborhood. Many people feel silly, or embarrassed, to call the Police for these types of situations, **don't**. If you have posted these suggested signs and are still being bothered, or are unsure about the legitimacy of someone in your neighborhood please feel free to

contact the police department at 303-438-6400. We still rely on you, the citizens, to be our best source of information, and report any suspicious activity to us. Always call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious activity or crime that you observe.

The Broomfield Police Department encourages residents to voice their concerns, and we will work diligently to resolve them so that you and your neighbors can enjoy one of the best living environments in Colorado.

Happy Spring!

I hope all of you had a great Winter and are looking forward to the upcoming Spring and Summer months.

One of my biggest projects in 2008 was the revision of the Citizens' All-Hazard Preparedness Guide. This publication is now available on-line at www.broomfield.org, or by contacting me at 720-887-2084. I would love to meet with you and your neighbors to talk about the importance of citizen preparedness and all of the information contained in this booklet. If you haven't had a meeting in your neighborhood in a while and would like to schedule one please contact me.

Thanks, Joleen



Receiving 911 Emergency Messages

By Brian Goeman, Communications Supervisor



You may have heard about a 9-1-1 Center contacting the public during emergency situations through the use of a recorded message. The message is from the Broomfield 9-1-1 Dispatch Center notifying citizens in a specific part of town about police or fire emergencies. The notifications could include SWAT calls, where Police need all residents to stay inside - where you're safe; a hazardous materials spill situation - where you may need to evacuate your home, a wildfire - threatening structures, or other non-weather related information that needs to be given to you quickly.

Broomfield's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center uses a database to call all home phones, wired directly to a house, within a specified area. This area could be as small as an apartment complex, to as large as several miles in diameter. In the past, Cellular phones and Voice over IP (VoIP) phones could not receive the messages, since they were not part of the database.

Now, Broomfield's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center is able to send messages to Cellular phones and Voice over IP (VoIP) phones, once they are registered. To receive notifications on your Cellular Telephones or Voice over IP (VoIP), you must complete the registration form at www.your911.net. Each number registered will be added to the regional

emergency database to receive emergency notifications. Each number can only be associated with one address in the system.

Broomfield's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center uses this system in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies and fire departments in Jefferson County. Only residents of Arvada, Broomfield, Edgewater, Golden, Lakeside, Lakewood, Morrison, Mountain View, Westminster, Wheat Ridge, and unincorporated Jefferson County, should register on this site. If your home address is not in these areas, emergency notifications will not be sent to your cell or VoIP telephone number(s). Please contact your local law enforcement agency or fire department to determine how their emergency notifications are sent.

Once you have signed up and receive a call with an emergency message it is critical to listen to the entire message and follow the instructions for your safety. Please do not call 9-1-1 to verify the message, or to seek further information. Follow up notification will be



sent out to those same homes and businesses when there is no longer a danger to you.

If your home or business has privacy features (e.g., automatic voicemail, blocks solicitors, blocks unidentified calls, makes unidentified callers state their names, etc.) or any 'anti-solicitation' devices, you may not receive the emergency notification from the 9-1-1 Center. Contact your service provider to see how to disable these features.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Broomfield Emergency Management Unit at 720-887-2084 they will be glad to answer your questions.

Crime Prevention Reminders:

- Close your garage door.
- Lock your car doors.
- Close and lock all doors and windows.
- Know your neighbors.
- Know the vehicles that belong in your neighborhood.
- Leave your porch lights on at night.
- Inventory your property.
- Join Neighborhood Watch

If you hear or see anything suspicious, it probably is!

Call the Police Department!

Non-Emergency 303-438-6400

Emergency 9-1-1



LIGHTNING AWARENESS AND SAFETY

By Brandon Lawrence, Emergency Management Coordinator



Following the “30/30” Lightning Safety Rule will greatly reduce your risk of lightning related injuries.

An enclosed vehicle, such as a school bus, (with the windows up) is also a safe place to take cover. However, once inside the vehicle be sure not to touch metallic objects connected to the outside of the car. Door and window handles, radio dials, CB microphones, gearshifts, and steering wheels should be left alone during close-in lightning storms.

Each year in Colorado more people are killed or injured by lightning than any other weather related phenomenon, even floods. Colorado ranks 18th in the nation with respect to lightning strikes and 3rd in the country when it comes to lightning fatalities. However, the number of lightning strikes and their location can vary greatly from year to year.

Knowing more about the dangers of lightning, and applying a few basic rules, can help you stay safe in the event of a thunderstorm. Lightning has been documented to strike over 25 miles away from the actual thunderstorm. Thunder can typically be heard up to 10 miles away. During heavy rain and wind this distance could be even less. So if you can hear it, you are *already* within striking distance!

To estimate the distance between you and a lightning flash, the “Flash to Bang” method can be used. When lightning is observed, count the number of seconds until you hear thunder. Dividing the number of seconds you counted by 5 will give the distance (in miles) the lightning is

away from you. In other words, for every 5 seconds counted, the lightning is approximately 1 mile from your location. It is recommended that you seek shelter if the time between the lightning flash and thunder is **30** seconds or less. Activities should not resume until after **30** minutes after the last audible thunder. Following the “30/30” Lightning Safety Rule will greatly reduce your risk of lightning related injuries.

While not many places are absolutely safe from lightning, some places are much safer than others. Avoid open spaces, all metal objects, water, high ground, and solitary trees.

Safe locations include large enclosed buildings (shopping center, schools, office buildings, private residence, etc.). While inside avoid any contact with conductive surfaces with exposure to the outside such as metal doors, window frames, electrical wiring, telephone wiring, cable TV wiring, and plumbing. Also avoid using the telephone, taking a shower, or doing the dishes.

Plan ahead and play it safe. Know your local weather patterns and be sure to get the weather forecast before going out for the day. Keep a close eye on summer afternoon skies, and do not hesitate to take action. The threat of being in danger depends more on the actions taken by you than any other factor. The decisions that you make will have, by far, the greatest impact on your chances of being struck by lightning.

Lightning Prediction System—Thor Guard

- Broomfield County Commons Park
- Measures electrostatic charges at ground level and in the atmosphere
- 8-12 minute warning to clear the area
- **Signal sounds ONE prolonged blast for 15 seconds**
- **Resumption of activities is signaled by THREE five seconds blast of the horn**





7 DesCombes Drive
Broomfield, Colorado 80020

Non-emergency 303-438-6400

Emergency 911

Public Education Coordinator

Joleen Reeve 720-887-2084

11600 Ridge Parkway

Neighborhood Watch

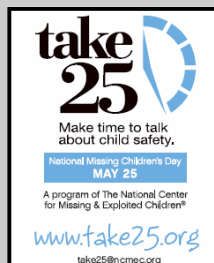
Crime Prevention

Emergency Preparedness

May 25th is National Missing Children's Day!

The Broomfield Police Department would like to encourage you to 'Take 25' - spend 25 minutes on May 25th to talk to your children about safety. Here's a few safety tips:

1. Teach your children their full names, address, and telephone numbers. Children should also know their parents' or guardians' full names and how to reach them at work or on their cell phone(s). Make sure they know to call a trusted adult or 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.
2. Instruct children to keep the door locked and not to open the door or talk to anyone who comes to the door when they are home alone. Set rules with your children about having visitors over when you're not home and about how to answer the telephone.
3. Teach your children to never approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult.
4. Learn about the Internet. The more you know about how the Web works, the better prepared you will be to teach your children about potential risks. Visit www.NetSmartz.org to learn more.



YOUR PET & COYOTES



All Front Range communities are home to coyotes. These clever canids have readily adapted to our food and habitat-rich environments. The Colorado Division of Wildlife wants to help you avoid conflicts with coyotes in your neighborhood.

- Keep pets on a leash when walking.
- Never allow your pets to "play" with a coyote.
- Pick up small pets if confronted by a coyote.
- Do what you can to discourage a coyote's approach—yell, stomp your feet, throw small rocks or sticks at it.
- Always supervise your pet when outside, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Never leave cats or dogs outside after dark.
- Don't leave food or water outside for pets.
- If you must leave your pet outside, secure it in a fully enclosed kennel.
- Keep your pets up to date on vaccinations.

Questions or concerns regarding wildlife in your area? Call the Colorado Division of Wildlife at 303-291-7227 or visit us online at www.wildlife.state.co.us



Tips for Realtors Holding an Open House

- Remind sellers that strangers will be in their home. Advise them to put valuables in a safe, secure place. Ask them to consider items they might not initially think would attract interest, such as prescription drugs.
- Before you post yard signs, notify neighbors of the open house so they might be alert to unusual sounds or people in the area.
- Take a few minutes to re-familiarize yourself with the home's features – when prospects come, you don't want to be preoccupied with things like finding light switches or linen closets.
- Wear jewelry conservatively.
- Wear clothes that are comfortable and shoes that allow you to run, if necessary.
- Be aware of your nearest exit.
- Work in pairs, if possible.
- Don't keep your own cell phone, purse, or briefcase in plain view.
- Have an open house register to log visitors' names.
- Keep your own list of visitors' descriptions, car descriptions, and if possible, license plate numbers.
- Limit the amount of personal information you share about yourself and about the homeowner.
- Keep your cell phone at your side and make sure it is fully charged.
- Be aware of a person's behavior, such as preoccupation with valuable objects or checking out doors, locks, and alarm systems.
- Keep prospects in front of you. Make an effort to stay out of attics, basements, walk-in closets, or other small areas.
- Be especially alert at the end of the day when predators might assume you are tired or more vulnerable.
- When you leave, make sure all doors and windows are secured.
- Upon their return home, sellers should immediately double check all locks and scout for any missing items.

We're on the Web!

Access the City and County of Broomfield website at:

<http://www.broomfield.org>