



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CIRCULAR

Fall/Winter  
2008

## 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**

## Getting Ready for the Holidays!

### HOLIDAY TRAVEL



Along with the holiday season comes additional travel for many of us as we gather with our friends and family. If you will be traveling out of town by car for the holidays:

- Check road conditions before you leave. Contact Colorado State Patrol Road Report at 303-639-1111 or 1-800-315-7623 or visit [222.cotrip.org](http://222.cotrip.org).
- Inform a family member or friend where you are going, when you expect to be back, and if possible, what route you will be taking.
- Take a cell phone with you if possible.
- Carry an emergency kit in the car.
- Keep your gas tank full – it doesn't cost any more to keep the top quarter of your gas tank full than it does to keep the bottom quarter filled.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

### HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Shop before dark and / or with a friend if possible. Don't be overburdened with packages. Carrying several shopping bags makes you look vulnerable. Do not leave packages in your vehicle in plain sight. Place your purchases in the trunk of your car before buying additional items. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.



### HOLIDAY LIGHTS!

The Christmas Holiday is up and coming. This means that many people will decorate the inside and outside of their homes. Although holiday lights are pretty and festive, they can cause fires. Here are a few simple steps to take to reduce your risk of becoming a fire victim:



- Always inspect electrical wires. Do not use lights or cords that are cut or cracked.
- Use only lights and electrical cords that are approved for outdoor use.
- Unplug lights when not home or when retiring for the evening.
- Do not hang lights using staples or nails. This can damage the wire's protective insulation.
- Always follow manufactures instructions. Especially when plugging more than one string of lights together.



Happy Holidays!

As we quickly approach the end of the year and head into 2009, I ask myself where has all the time gone!

The Neighborhood Watch program has continued to grow throughout the community with a number of new blocks established during 2008 in the Anthem area in the north part of the city, as well as other locations in both old and new neighborhoods.

Plans for a productive year are already under way and include a number of activities, such as; Block Captain training, Tornadoes to Terrorists—Are you prepared? Citizen Preparedness Classes, National Night Out—Picnic in the Park, as well as other events and all-hazard education opportunities.

The Emergency Management Unit will be introducing a new early warning / information tool, B-WARN, Broomfield Warning And Readiness Network.

B-WARN is Broomfield's free subscription based safety notification system designed for people on the go. It is capable of sending alerts to any e-mail enabled device, phones, cell phones, and fax. It will be used for **non-weather** related emergencies only. Watch for details and sign up opportunities as we kick-off the program in early 2009.

I am looking forward to a great year and hope that I have the opportunity to meet with each of you and your neighbors during 2009!

Thanks,  
Joleen



## SAFETY SELLS: FINDING A TOY FOR YOUR CHILD

By Wendy Forbes, Public Information Officer, North Metro Fire Rescue District

Whether Littlest Pet Shop figurines or the Transformers are on your list for 2008, kids are coming up with their holiday picks. In the U.S., 3.8 billion toys and games are sold each year with more than half being sold during the holiday season. While many toys are safe, they can become dangerous if misused or if given to a child too young to play with them!

The scooter craze of 1999 caught many parents off guard because the important safety equipment often wasn't also given as part of the gift. The result? More than 26,000 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for scooter-related injuries in 2000.

### Selecting a Safe Toy

The Child Safety Protection Act, a federal toy labeling law, requires manufacturers to place warning labels on toys that pose a choking hazard to young children. In addition, many toys come with a recommended age—use this as your guide. Unfortunately people often overestimate their child's ability to handle a toy designed for an older age group.

When heading off to shop for your grandchildren this holiday, consider the following guidelines for age-appropriate toys:

### Infants under age 1:

The most suitable toys for the first year include activity quilts, stuffed animals without button noses and eyes, bath toys, soft dolls, baby swings, cloth books and squeaky toys.



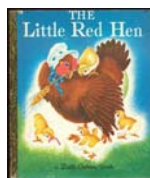
### Children ages 1 to 3:

The best toys for this age group are books, blocks, fit-together toys, balls, push-and-pull toys, pounding toys and shape toys.



### Children 3 to 5:

Toys most suitable for this age group include non-toxic art supplies, books, videos, musical instruments, and outdoor toys such as a baseball tee, slide or swing.



### Children 5 to 9:

Recommended toys include crafts, jump ropes, puppets, books, electric trains, and sports equipment. Some battery-operated toys are also acceptable.



### Children 9 to 14:

Appropriate gifts include computers, microscopes, table and board games, outdoor and team sports equipment.



But remember, for those of you thinking of a sport-type gift, the gift is not complete unless the proper protective gear is also included! Don't forget helmets for riding bikes, and knee and elbow pads for skateboarding.

## Surviving the Flu Season

Excerpt taken from University of Arizona Health Sciences Center

Do you feel the sniffles coming on? Fight the flu with these tips!

### An Ounce of Prevention

Avoid catching the flu or a cold by washing hands often, with soap and warm water. If you've touched a contaminated surface, such as telephone, keyboard or children's toys, germs easily can pass from your hand to your nose, mouth, or eyes and lead to infection. Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.

### Keep It to Yourself - Please!

If you catch a bug in spite of all your precautions, remember to cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away and wash your hands. Use tissues rather than a handkerchief. Use separate hand towels in the bathroom for people who are healthy and those who are ill.



## Puffers

Did you know that starting your car and leaving it unattended to warm up is against the law? Car thieves refer to these vehicles as "puffers" and scope neighborhoods for easy targets. Every year when winter arrives, early morning car thefts skyrocket.

Colorado Revised Statutes 42-4-1206, states that: Unattended motor vehicle. No person driving or in charge of a motor vehicle shall permit it to stand unattended without first stopping the engine, locking the engine, removing the key from the ignition, and effectively setting the brake thereon, and, when standing upon any grade, said person shall turn the front wheels to the curb or side of the highway in such a manner as to prevent the vehicle from rolling onto the traveled roadway.

The Broomfield Police Department actively makes contact with all residents that have unattended running vehicles. This includes running vehicles that are parked unattended on both public and private property, even though enforcement action can only be taken if the vehicle is parked on a public right of way.

If you are determined to leave your vehicle running while you are preparing your morning coffee, a safe alternative is a remote starter. A remote starter enables you to start your vehicle with the touch of a button. There is no key used to initially start the vehicle, and a safety kill switch is part of the installation. With a remote starter once the brake pedal is depressed the engine automatically turns off. This system does not guarantee that your car will not be stolen, but can be utilized as another alternative to warming up your vehicle while you stay warm in your house.

Together, the police department and the community can make a difference in the prevention of unattended vehicles being stolen if we just ensure that we stay with our vehicles when they are warming up.





## VEHICLE BREAK-IN ALERT

Excerpt taken from University of Oklahoma Police Department

Vehicle Break-in prevention, like all crime prevention, involves limiting the criminal's ability and/or opportunity to commit the crime. With very little time and effort, you can make a huge difference in your vulnerability to auto break-in.

It generally takes only a few seconds to secure your valuables, but it will take only a few seconds more for a thief to break in and steal valuables left in plain sight.

### WHAT IS YOUR CAR SCREAMING OUT TO THIEVES?



### VEHICLE BREAK-IN PREVENTION TIPS.....

The first thing you can do to help: **Don't leave valuables in your car!** Especially in plain sight!

#### Are your valuables VISIBLE?

#### Don't be the next vehicle break-in victim!

The last thing you need is to find your vehicle's window broken or items missing. We suggest taking these simple but important steps to maintain the security of your vehicle:

- ☑ **Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.** That sounds like "common sense", but drivers/passengers leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your vehicle, your vehicle may be a target.
- ☑ **If you must leave valuable items in your vehicle while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously.** This includes packages, backpacks, gym bags, GPS units, MP3 players, and so forth. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your vehicle the minute you're out of sight.
- ☑ **Leave no trace.** Don't leave any "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations or connector cables. Leave nothing in plain sight that might make your vehicle worth investigating by a thief; not even loose coins or a CD.
- ☑ **Try to park in busy, well lit areas.** Try to park in well-traveled areas. Large dark lots in remote areas are hit by thieves much more often than well lit parking areas.

- ☑ **Lock ALL your vehicle's doors** even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every year, items are stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone for a quick second. It only takes seconds to steal your stuff! It's not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked. Don't leave any window open or even cracked open, including vent/wing windows and sunroofs.

#### What items are most commonly stolen from vehicles?

- Backpacks, gym bags, briefcases, day-planners
- Cash/coins, checkbooks and credit/debit cards
- Wallets and purses (even when hidden under a seat or in an unlocked glove compartment)
- Laptop computers, iPods and MP3 players, (and docking stations)
- Cell phones (and chargers)
- Portable GPS navigation systems
- Stereo/CD players (and faceplates), amps, speakers (even when bolted down!)
- Jewelry, keys, mail (identity theft), tools
- **Anything** of obvious value

#### Report Suspicious Activity

If you see suspicious activity, call the police! Dial 9-1-1!

What is suspicious activity?

- Persons walking up and down aisles of parking lots looking into vehicles or trying door handles.
- Vehicles cruising parking lots at very slow speeds for extended periods while observing parked cars.
- Persons making any kind of mark or placing anything on parked vehicles.
- Persons sitting in running parked cars for extended periods of time.
- Vehicles dropping one person off while continuing to cruise the same area.

The Broomfield Police Department would prefer to check on an innocent citizen going about their business than to not check and end up taking a report of a vehicle break-in after the fact. Please do not hesitate to call the Broomfield Police Department to report all suspicious activities, persons or vehicles. Officers cannot be everywhere, and we count on each of you to be our "eyes and ears" to report suspicious activities as they are occurring. You can make a difference. **Report Suspicious Activity! Call 9-1-1!**



**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**

**Wood Burning Exemptions**



Information provided by Kirk Oglesby,  
Code Compliance Manager

A citizen may operate a solid fuel-fired heating device during a high pollution day if he/she has obtained an exemption from the city. Requirements for the exemption are:

The citizen must make application for the exemption and sign an affidavit stating that

They rely on a solid-fuel burning device as their sole source of heat and that the device was installed prior to November 24, 1988 or they rely on an electrical heating system as their primary source of heat and the system was installed prior to November 24, 1988.

The Application and Affidavit for a Wood Burning Exemption may be obtained by calling the Code Complaint Line at 303-464-5551, picked up at the Code Compliance Division at One DesCombes Drive, or obtained on line at [www.broomfield.org/codecompliance/enforcement.htm](http://www.broomfield.org/codecompliance/enforcement.htm).

## NORTH METRO URGES BROOMFIELD RESIDENTS TO PREVENT HOME FIRES

By Wendy Forbes, Public Information Officer, North Metro Fire Rescue District

A pot holder too close to a lit burner or a space heater left on overnight could be all it takes to start a home fire. In fact, cooking and heating are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

That's why North Metro Fire Rescue has teamed up with NFPA to urge Broomfield residents to "Prevent Home Fires". This year's campaign focuses on preventing all the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating and electrical equipment, and smoking materials. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

According to the latest research from NFPA, more than 2,500 people died in home fires in the United States in 2006, and 12,500 were injured. Fire departments responded to 396,000 home fires, which accounted for 80% of civilian deaths and 76% of injuries that year.

"While the number of home fires is daunting, the good news is that many are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire," said Wendy Forbes, North Metro Public Information Officer.

"Whether it's smoking outside the home, keeping space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, or staying in the kitchen when you are using the stovetop, there are easy things you can do to keep your home and family safe from fire."

Do you know how to keep your home safe from fire hazards? Reviewing the following information and taking action can help you "Prevent Home Fires" all year-round.

- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period time, turn off the stove.



- **Heating:** Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords; use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside; wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.

Your family's safety is up to you! Practice these fire safe behaviors routinely in your home.

**We're on the Web!**

Access the City and County of Broomfield website at:

<http://www.broomfield.org>