



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CIRCULAR

Spring / Summer
2010

*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**

FAIR WEATHER TRAFFIC REMINDERS

By Officer Robert Shephard, Traffic Unit

The weather is improving and more children, families, pedestrians, bicycles, and yes, even an occasional stray animal will be outside more frequently. As a motorist driving in and around the City & County of Broomfield, use caution and drive defensively as outdoor activities increase. Here are some reminders for driving in Broomfield:

Speed Limits

- Drive the posted speed limit in residential areas.
- Watch for and expect almost anything to occur. There could be a toy, child, or animal coming out from between or behind a parked vehicle.
- Be aware of the doors of vehicles parked along the street which may be quickly opened as you are driving by.
- Remember that conditions or circumstances can change quickly, such as weather and roadway conditions, pedestrians near the roadway, or visibility problems caused by the sun, curves, corners, parked cars, fences, or landscaping. Visibility obstructions may require you to drive slower than the posted speed limit.

Stop Signs

- Come to a complete stop.
- Look both ways to check for any vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians that may be approaching from either direction before proceeding past the stop sign and/or designated stop bar that is painted on the street.

Crosswalks / Motorist's

- Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

- Do not drive through the crosswalk when a pedestrian is crossing. Many times the pedestrian is not watching for the vehicles as they approach.
- Expect a vehicle in front of you to slow and/or stop as they approach a crosswalk when a pedestrian is waiting to cross.

Crosswalks / Pedestrians

- Never assume that an approaching driver sees you.



- Always watch for the driver's face and eyes to acknowledge that they are looking at you.
- Watch for the vehicle to slow and stop before stepping in front of the vehicle.

Children playing in roadway

- Do not allow your children to play in the street.
- Do not place devices in the roadway, such as cones, signs, or any obstructions in an attempt to slow traffic.

Expect the unexpected!

Summer is almost here and hopefully the snow is behind us, or in the mountains and viewable from afar. The Neighborhood Watch program is growing in leaps and bounds. So far this year we have added 20 new Block Captains up north in the Anthem Highlands area. Welcome to all of you that have just joined the group.



I am just beginning plans for National Night Out. This years event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3rd at the County Commons Park from 6-9 p.m. This annual event focuses on all-hazard preparedness, with demonstrations from the K-9 Unit and North Metro Fire Rescue. There is involvement from a variety of city departments and the support from the community is what truly makes it a great success. I hope that all of you will take the time to attend this interactive all-hazard event and bring your family, friends and meet up with neighbors as well.

This issue of the Neighborhood Watch Circular contains information based on suggestions from the Block Captains. Thanks to those of you that responded and keep in mind that many of the other topics suggested will hopefully be included in future publications. Remember that the Neighborhood Watch program is designed to meet your needs and without your involvement and input it would not exist. Feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Joleen



REALLY?

I thought it seemed too good to be true.

By Detective Mike Svela, Investigations Unit

A recent ad I saw read: "For Sale: 2007 BMW M5, MUST SELL! Moving out of the country. Asking \$5000". Perhaps it's a generational thing, perhaps it's an economical thing, perhaps it's just plain old greed, whatever the reason we as a society seem to have forgotten the time-tested saying "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is".

My grandparents wouldn't dream of buying a car over the internet without being able to see it, touch it, have a mechanic look at it, and of course, test drive it. Even if I could convince them that there are several legitimate companies that use websites to conduct legitimate business, my grandparents would not let go of a penny of their hard earned money until they could physically see the car. My grandmother often jokes that my grandfather's wallet squeaks and dust comes out when he opens it. I guess the 1930's and 1940's taught him to save his money, and only buy what he can pay for in cash, and in person. Crazy idea huh?

Often this kind of logic is met with resistance from younger generations. In these economic times everyone is looking for a better deal on everything. Stories abound regarding incredible deals found on the internet. Start talking about one particular internet auction website in a crowd of people and someone will inevitably comment about how they, or a friend, bought some item for an incredibly low price. Someone else might talk about how they were scammed.

However, many of the reputable websites, which include buyer and seller protections, cost money to buy and sell items. As a cheaper alternative, several businesses offer free advertisements where the buyer and seller are left to work out the deal amongst themselves. This might seem attractive at first, but a healthy dose of skepticism will save most people from being defrauded.

Unfortunately, too many people are still falling for the "Gotta sell my car, CHEAP" scam, the "Work-from-home" scam, and yes... the "You've won the (foreign country) lottery". Many of these scams offer enticing terms like a newer model car for pennies on the dollar, huge salaries for very little work, or large sums of money for just providing your personal identifying information.

These are commonly referred to by law enforcement as "Advanced fee scams". The whole point of these scams is to obtain some amount of money from the victim, up front, with promises to deliver something at a later time. The suspect(s) will always go out of their way to try and convince you that they are legitimate, offering local phone numbers or addresses that they are familiar with to prove to you that they are from your area. Remember that anyone in the world with an internet connection can find local addresses and phone numbers in your area.

For these types of scams the seller/scammer might request a shipping fee or deposit for the car, or the purchase of "office supplies" to begin working from home, or taxes on the lottery winnings. Once you send the money, which the scammers usually request via MoneyGram or Western Union wire transfer, your funds are gone and the item(s) are never delivered. It is next to impossible to recover your money once it is sent. These services allow the scammer to obtain the funds anywhere in the world! Just because you wrote "Chicago, IL" on the wire transfer form, doesn't mean the scammer can't pick up the money in Lagos, Nigeria. All they need is the reference number. If your money leaves the USA it will not be recovered by any American law enforcement agency.

Remember, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"

Below are some tips to increase your skepticism and hopefully save you from becoming a victim of these types of scams:

1. Be aware of poor English, grammar, and syntax in e-mails. This often indicates a foreign person is writing the e-mail. Although spelling is not a good indicator due to spell-check in most e-mail programs, also watch for non-American spelling of common words like "color" spelled "colour", or "point" spelled "pointe".
2. Be aware of website links that the other person recommends you go to, or tells you to click on in their e-mail. Many websites can be cloned and spoofed so they appear to be the real business but are not. Hidden links can be embedded in hyperlinks in e-mails which direct you to the suspect's cloned website.
3. Use Google to check out a person's name, address, phone number, e-mail address, etc. If the person is a scammer, often you will find other victims have posted blogs about one of these items.
4. Talk to the other person on the telephone, or preferably in person at a public location. Legitimate buyers and sellers will have no issues with this. Scammers always have an excuse as to why they can't meet you.
5. Don't fall for phone numbers with local area codes and prefixes as a sign of legitimacy. Although it might be an indicator of a local buyer / seller, there are numerous companies that allow you to buy an internet-based phone number with whatever area code and prefix you desire.
6. Be cautious when sending money to a person you don't know, at a location you don't know. Especially for large purchases, contact your local bank about how to make a safe purchase using an escrow account, or similar type of fund transfer, wherein the funds will not be released until you receive the item.

Don't fall victim to any of these scams! Remember, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!" For additional information contact the police department at 303-438-6400.

FASCINATION WITH FIRE

What Every Parent Should Know!

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

- No matter how young.**
- No matter how bright.**
- No matter how innocent.**
- A curious child can set a fire that kills.**

One of the most difficult topics fire service educators confront is juvenile fire play and fire setting. Children as young as two years old can begin playing with fire and the older children get—the more adventurous their experimentation can become. Too often this behavior goes unnoticed by parents or mistakenly dismissed as “natural” behavior that is simply a phase. Parents should not feel guilt or blame about this activity, but they should address the seriousness of using fire inappropriately and realize how they are the key in helping a child before a dangerous, life-changing event impacts them!

Being curious about fire is natural—actually playing with fire is NOT!

Fire demands respect. Over one-half of all arson cases involve preteen children. And, sadly the fires set by these preteens kill hundreds of individuals every year and destroy millions of dollars of property. At very young ages children are curious about fire and do not understand the dangers associated it. As a child gets older they may use fire in groups to “show off” with their peers, these children often think they have control over fire and can easily put fire out if one starts to get too large. Then there are some children who are experiencing high levels of stress in their lives (i.e. parents going through a divorce, they might be having difficulty making friends in school, etc.) that actually use fire to express their anger, frustration & powerlessness. In many ways, these children are hoping to get caught—to be noticed.

Whatever the age or stage a child is in with their inappropriate fire activities—adults need to be aware that to do nothing is a choice—a poor one. However, it can be



confusing on what adults should do. North Metro wants to help parents address and curb these dangerous activities—we recommend starting with this 3-step approach.

Step One: Control Your Child’s Access to Fire

- Create an environment at home that reinforces safety about fire.
- Keep all matches and lighters out of reach of young children. A two-year old can operate a lighter or strike a match.
- Never – not even for a moment – leave a stove, lighted candle or fire in a fireplace unattended.
- Teach your children that matches and lighters are dangerous to touch. Tell them to come to you when they find them—but to leave them where they are.
- PRAISE your children for following your instructions

Step Two: Set a Good Example

- Children learn by watching and imitating adults. Point out safety precautions you use for cooking,

heating, & using fire.

- Don’t let your children light your cigarettes for you, light the grill for you, or play with open flames (i.e. campfires, candles, etc.)
- Teach children that fire is a useful tool, used by adults. Fire can easily get out of control—it isn’t a toy or plaything.
- Supervise older children when you do start letting them light candles or strike a match.

Step Three: Look for Signs of Children Playing with Fire

- Burn spots on the carpet.
- Burned paper or ashes under bed, in trash can or around their desk.
- Burn spots in the yard at home, at school or at their “hang-outs”.
- Missing matches or lighters.
- Matches or lighters in their room, in their backpack, & in their pockets.

If you find a child playing with fire, get help! A **FREE** Juvenile Fire Setting Program is available through North Metro Fire Rescue District to help children and their families address these fire play & fire setting issues. The program is designed to meet each child’s specific needs and it is confidential. The Fire Department’s goal is to stop inappropriate behaviors and find a solution that keeps kids and their families safe. Call 720-887-0404 to learn more about the North Metro Fire Rescue Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program.





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

DEFENSIVE DRIVING— How can I determine a safe stopping distance?

By Officer Robert Shephard, Traffic Unit

To determine a safe stopping distance behind another vehicle at a stop light, stop sign, or in stopped traffic, look over the hood of your vehicle. When stopped, if you can still see the tires of the vehicle in front of you touching the roadway then you are a safe distance for two reasons:

- If the vehicle in front of you is broken down you can turn your wheels left or right and usually be able drive around the vehicle without having to first back up.
- If you are struck from behind by another vehicle, it is less likely that your vehicle will be pushed into the vehicle in front of yours.



We're on the Web!

Access the City and County of Broomfield website at:

<http://www.broomfield.org>

Sanitation—A Stinky Subject!

By Donna Shimic, Animal Control Officer

Colorado is a great place to enjoy the great outdoors. Having to step around dog feces is not so enjoyable.

Picking up after your pet is not a pleasant task but it is your responsibility. Pet feces may carry parasites like *round worms* or *tape worms* or spread diseases like *canine parvovirus*.

All pet owners are responsible for promptly cleaning up after their animal on any public property, or private property where permission was not obtained from the property owner. Also, your own property must be kept clean of excessive

excrement to prevent diseases and odor. Failure to pick up after your pet can carry a fine up to \$500.

So remember, before you head out the door to take your dog for a walk, be sure to grab a plastic bag. Lastly, once you pick up after your dog, be sure to dispose of the plastic bag in a trash receptacle (and not along the path). Thanks in advance.

Pet owners or caretakers may be cited for violating the sanitation ordinance. Animal ordinances are available online at www.broomfield.org/code.



Solicitors—What are the basics surrounding people selling stuff in my neighborhood?

By Detective Mike Sveta, Investigations Unit

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".

If you observe solicitors in your neighborhood that do not display the required badge, contact the police department at 303-438-6400.