



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CIRCULAR

Spring/Summer  
2011

*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**

## RECEIVING SPRING AND SUMMER WEATHER ALERTS!

*Excerpts taken from the Citizens' All-Hazard Preparedness Guide*

**Did you know that spring and summer weather in Colorado can bring....**

Strong winds, thunderstorms, hail, lightning, tornadoes, floods, and sometimes even snow! Being advised of all of the potential weather conditions will allow you to plan for your day and/or take action if needed due to inclement weather. The National Weather Service provides watches and warnings for all areas and is our best resource for weather updates locally and across the country.

**What's the best way for me to receive watches and warnings from the National Weather Service?**

The Emergency Management Unit recommends that every home be equipped with a NOAA Public Alert Weather Radio to receive all watches and warnings that may affect our community.

**What is a NOAA Public Alert Weather Radio?**

The use of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Public Alert Weather Radio is a reliable method for being alerted of and monitoring weather conditions. NOAA Public Alert Weather Radio (or Wx Radio) is used to broadcast National Weather Service forecasts, and severe storm watches and

warnings via a low frequency radio wave. NOAA Public Alert Weather Radio is important for more than just receiving severe weather messages. It can also be used for receiving local civil emergency and Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages from local authorities. Information such as evacuation routes, Shelter-in-Place instructions, and other local emergency information can be broadcast at the request of the Broomfield Police or North Metro Fire Rescue personnel.

**How can I obtain a NOAA Public Alert Weather Radio and what kind should I buy?**

NOAA Public Alert Weather Radios can be purchased for a nominal fee at local electronic stores. Look for those equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (S.A.M.E.) capabilities. This allows you to program the radio for the area(s) that may affect you. It is advised to program the radio for the county that you live in as well as those that are within close proximity.

**S.A.M.E. codes:**

- Broomfield—008014
- Boulder—008013
- Adams—008001
- Weld—008123
- Jefferson—008059

*For additional information on Early Warning Systems available to you go to page 3.*

Greetings,

Summer is just around the corner and a welcome change that I am looking forward to. Each season brings its own unique array of fun, concerns, and activities. Keeping that in mind I have compiled a variety of information that is appropriate to this time of year. In addition to the articles in this publication I would like to remind each of you to....

- Close your garage doors
- Close and lock your doors and windows
- Lock your car doors
- Remove valuables from your car
- Remind family members to secure their bikes, skateboards, and other sports equipment.

This time of year is also perfect for getting your neighbors together for a Neighborhood Watch meeting. If it's been awhile since we've met give me a call and we can schedule something. It can be as simple as telling neighbors to bring their lawn chairs to meet in your driveway. This will bring everyone together and create an opportunity for sharing information and asking questions of representatives of the police department. You never know you might meet someone new in the process and learn something too!

In the meanwhile be safe!

Thanks,  
Joleen



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## TIPS FOR CONDUCTING A SAFE OPEN HOUSE

By Joleen Reefer, Public Education Coordinator



Along with the great weather that spring and summer bring, an increase in homes for sale is often seen. Whether you are a licensed realtor or an individual homeowner trying to sell your home here are a few tips to help you conduct a safe open house.

- Remember that strangers will be inside of the home. Put valuables in a safe, secure place. Valuables may also include items such as prescription drugs, check books, and bank statements.
- 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 specific 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. Ask a colleague, friend or neighbor to join you for the day.
- Don't leave your cell phone, purse, wallet, or briefcase sitting unattended 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, or about the homeowner if you are a realtor.
- 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 the open house is complete make sure all doors and windows are secured.

## MAIL THEFT IS MAKING A COMEBACK!

By Detective Mike Svela, Broomfield Police Department

Mail theft is making a comeback! This method of identity theft has been around for as long as there has been mail service. For approximately the past 10 years there has been a surge of internet-based identity theft and mail-theft incidents seemed to calm down. However, recently there has been a significant increase of mail theft throughout Broomfield and the Denver metro area. Several groups of suspects have been identified and arrested. However, the following suggestions are offered to help you avoid becoming the victim of identity theft due to mail theft.

- Go Paperless! Not only is it "green", but there are less financial documents sent to you via the mail.
- Check your mail daily. An accumulation of mail is an attractive bounty for a mail thief. Do not let mail sit in your mailbox overnight, or over the weekend.
- When going on vacation place a "mail hold" on your mail delivery by filling out a simple form at your local Post Office or online at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).
- Consider getting a P.O. Box. Whether at a private business or a local USPS office, a P.O. Box offers the added security of the building itself, as a deterrence against mail theft.
- Whenever possible use "bill pay" services through your bank, or conduct financial transactions through any of the various electronic methods available. Do not put your personal checks in the mail.



If you find that your mail has been stolen, or your mailbox has been tampered with, immediately notify your local Postmaster General at the local Post Office, or call the USPS at: 877-876-2455 or visit: <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov/forms/mlntrcvd.aspx>.

Always remember that if you feel things are not quite right...they probably aren't.

Call the police!



## AIR SOFT GUNS—What are some of the laws?

By Officer Chrissy McCain

As we approach the warm summer months the Broomfield Police Department would like to address the laws surrounding the use of mechanically or gas operated guns. This includes the most common device, the air soft gun. The information provided below is specific to the municipal codes or laws for the City and County of Broomfield.

What exactly constitutes a mechanically or gas operated gun? This answer is simple; any air, gas, or spring operated gun or blow gun that discharges pellets, BB shots, arrows, or darts, included without limitation, BB guns, spring guns, and other similarly operated guns or weapons.

There are three municipal codes that apply:  
**9-72-020 - Possession and use of weapons**

In short, it is illegal for any person to possess, other than in a person's dwelling, a gas or mechanically operated gun, a bow and arrow, crossbow, a nunchaku or throwing star.

It is also unlawful for any person, other than in a person's dwelling, to discharge or cause to be discharged any projectile from: a gas or mechanically operated gun or a bow and arrow, crossbow, or slingshot.

**9-72-040 - Aiming or flourishing weapon**

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly aim at another person or to display flourish the following in a manner to intend to alarm or frighten another person:

- A loaded or unloaded firearm or gas or mechanically operated gun
- A knife
- A bow and arrow, crossbow, or slingshot
- A nunchaku or throwing star; or
- Any other weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance which in the manner it is used or intended to be used is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.

**9-72-080 - Dangerous missiles; stones**

It is unlawful for any person to willfully, maliciously, or recklessly throw, shoot, or project any stone,

arrow, pellet, dart, ball bearing, or other dangerous missile at or against a person, animal, building, structure, personal property or fixture, or vehicle.

We are often asked, "what if my son/daughter shoots their air soft guns in the backyard with friends?" The police officers do not seek out these types of situations, but are often called to respond to such calls, from surrounding neighbors, when pellets are striking their homes or landing on their property. Therefore, we encourage you to locate an establishment that is designed for the specific use of air soft gun activities where you and your children can enjoy their use in a safe and legal environment.

The intention of this is not to ruin anyone's fun, but to better educate each of you. If you have any questions always feel free to contact the Broomfield Police Department at 303-438-6400 to speak with a police officer.

### EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

#### TOOLS THAT ALERT YOU TO IMPENDING DANGER!

<p><b>EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)</b></p> <p>The EAS transmits National, State and local warning messages and is used to notify you of emergency situations. It automatically breaks into regular television and radio programming to provide guidance for your specific area. The EAS allows broadcast stations, cable systems and participating satellite companies to send and receive emergency information. The messages are meant to be very concise and informational. The voice may prompt you to take shelter, lock doors, or just be aware of a situation.</p>	<p>Uses for EAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe weather or flash flood watch / warning</li> <li>• Radiological emergency or hazardous material spill</li> <li>• Evacuation notice or civil emergency message</li> <li>• AMBER Alert</li> </ul> <p>EAS messages are broadcast on NOAA Alert Public Alert Weather Radios too!</p>	<p><b>CELL PHONE, PAGER AND EMAIL ALERTS</b></p> <p>EmergencyEmail.org is a free public service notification system that is available for cell phone, pagers and email alerts. This site provides public health alerts, major product recalls, AMBER alerts and severe weather alerts to your email address and/or cell phone based on your subscription preferences and the alert choices you make when signing up. At this time you will need to click on Boulder County and/or Adams County and provide your zip code for area specific information that includes Broomfield.</p>
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## STORMWATER! KEEP IT CLEAN, 'CAUSE WE'RE ALL DOWNSTREAM!

By Dennis Rodriguez, Industrial Pretreatment/Stormwater Administrator



### WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is any precipitation, like snow and rain that has fallen from the sky. It flows across impervious areas such as roads, rooftops, parking areas, and sidewalks that prevent infiltration of moisture, thus causing stormwater runoff. Natural drainage systems are often altered to rapidly collect stormwater runoff and convey it away (using curb and gutter, enclosed storm sewers, and channels). The stormwater runoff is then discharged to downstream waters such as streams, reservoirs, and lakes.

### REMEMBER!

Storm sewer systems discharge directly into creeks, streams and ponds **untreated** and it is illegal to dispose of anything other than stormwater into the storm sewer system.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In October 2004, Council passed the Stormwater Management Program's Ordinance Chapter 13-40. This ordinance establishes the legal authority to improve Broomfield's stormwater quality.

Other than naturally occurring stormwater runoff, only the following are allowed to be discharged into the city's storm sewer system:

- Water from fire fighting activities;
- Water line breaks and releases from potable water systems;
- De-chlorinated hydrant flushing;
- Foundation/footing drains;
- Uncontaminated groundwater;
- Basement and/or crawl space sump pump;
- De-chlorinated swimming pool discharges;
- Landscape irrigation;
- Air conditioning condensation;
- Non-commercial residential car washing;
- Diverted stream flows;
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; and
- Natural springs.

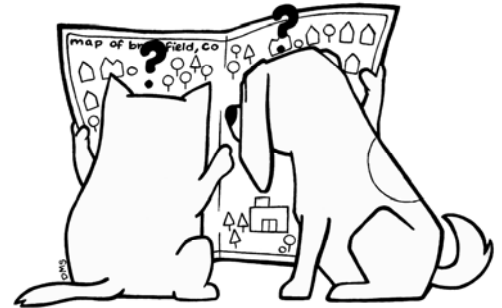


If you see someone disposing of something that is not on the above list, please report the incident to Dennis Rodriguez, Industrial Pretreatment/Stormwater Administrator at 303-464-5648.

## PETS—LOST AND FOUND!

By Animal Control Officer Donna Shimic

If you've lost your pet, you may call Broomfield Animal Control at (303) 438-6400. We also recommend that you contact any neighboring animal control agencies and animal shelters in the area. We suggest that you give the agency a detailed description of your pet and your contact information. Providing the agency with the date, time, and location where you last saw your pet is also helpful.



When a Good Samaritan finds a lost pet, they sometimes take the found pet directly to an animal shelter or will post a classified in the local paper such as the Broomfield Enterprise or an internet site, such as Craig's List.

### Local Animal Control / Animal Management Agencies:

Adams County	(303) 288-3294
Arvada	(720) 898-6850
Boulder County (Superior, Louisville)	(303) 441-4444
Erie	(303) 926-2800
Thornton	(720) 977-5250
Weld County	(970) 506-9550
Westminster	(303) 658-4326

### Local Shelters:

Adams County Animal Shelter	(303) 288-3294
Humane Society of Boulder Valley	(303) 442-4030
Foothills Animal Shelter (Golden)	(303) 278-7575

### Additional Tips:

- Be sure your pet is wearing a collar (or harness) and a current rabies tag. Consider writing your phone number on your pet's collar.
- Keep your cat(s) indoors.
- Keep your dog indoors when you are not at home.
- Consult with your veterinarian or a local animal shelter about the benefits of microchips for pets. If your pet already has a microchip, keep your contact information up-to-date with the microchip company.

If you have found a lost dog, contact the animal control agency that oversees the location where you found the dog.

## BROOMFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

7 DesCombes Drive

Broomfield, CO 80020

Non-emergency 303-438-6400

Emergency 9-1-1

### Public Education Coordinator

Joleen Reeve 720-887-2084

11600 Ridge Parkway

Neighborhood Watch

Crime Prevention

Emergency Preparedness

### We're on the Web!

Access the City and County of Broomfield website at:

<http://www.broomfield.org>