



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CIRCULAR

Winter
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

WORKING TOWARD A DISASTER RESISTIVE COMMUNITY

By Brandon Lawrence, Emergency Management Coordinator

We in Broomfield's Emergency Management Unit believe in the philosophy of a disaster resistive community, where our infrastructure, citizens, businesses, and government are able to bounce back rapidly from the worst that nature or man can throw at us. Since we are not able to prevent acts of nature, we should respect them enough to prepare ourselves for direct impacts and the cascading consequences that follow. Think earthquake...then loss of power...then loss of clean water, etc. The act of making preparations for each of these consequences *mitigates* the disaster's effect on Broomfield.

Mitigation, or the prevention or lessening the effects of a disaster, is one of the more neglected of the four phases of the emergency management cycle. It typically takes a back seat to response and preparedness. This is due, in part, because it's hard to measure the benefits of a good mitigation program. In contrast, it is easy to measure how many fires were extinguished, how many plans were created, and how many people were trained. Regardless of its status in society, we give it a fair share of attention and have participated in regional planning efforts to mitigate



disasters in the Denver Metro area.

In 2003, the members of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) produced a regional mitigation plan that included strategies to prevent

or lessen the effect of the natural hazards most common in the Denver Metro Area. The Broomfield City Council adopted that plan and now it is time to revise it. You have the opportunity to view and provide feedback for the Final Draft 2009 Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan by accessing this shortened link:

<http://tinyurl.com/ybdwv ag>

This mitigation plan will provide intergovernmental coordination in the region for addressing the many natural hazards that affect the Front Range. The Emergency Management Unit will propose adoption of this plan to the Broomfield City Council in the 2010 calendar year. We are seeking to reduce risk through these regional strategies. We will continue to do our part. What can you do in your home, on your street, in your neighborhood to reduce the risk around you?

Happy New Year—2010!

Hope you all had a great holiday and are off to a good beginning for 2010.

A number of things are being planned in Emergency Management that will keep me busy. Some of these include the publication and distribution of the newsletter. This will occur in January, May, and September. The Block Captain Trainings are scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd and Wednesday, October 6th. The County Commons Park is reserved for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3rd. We'll be planning a great night out and hope for your involvement. Preparedness classes will be scheduled in September during National Preparedness month (watch for the dates and times).

If you haven't made your New Year's Resolution yet, I am encouraging you to attend these great training and learning opportunities that are being planned.

Hope to see you at some time during the upcoming year. Feel free to contact me by phone or send me an e-mail at anytime, I would love to hear from you.

Hope you all have a great winter!

Thanks,
Joleen





FIRE AND ICE

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

Every year, when the holidays come to a close, North Metro Fire Rescue conducts their annual ice rescue training for all firefighters. Why do we train so frequently on this type of specialized rescue? Frozen ponds, lakes, and waterways seem to attract interest as a playground or convenient winter short-cut for adults, children and pets. However, the hazards of ice often times are not visible on the surface.

When is ice the safest? **Never.** Gauging the thickness and stability of a frozen waterway cannot be done by just looking at it. The strength of ice is determined by the local temperature conditions, the size of the body of water, the depth of the water underneath the ice, and water currents. Strangely enough ice can be a foot thick in one spot while, 10 feet away, only an inch thick.

Ice is generally the strongest when it is new. Refrozen ice, ice that has a "honeycomb" appearance, or ice with a layer of slush on top is far less capable of supporting a person's weight. And, ice closest to the shore, around inflowing or out flowing streams, and around narrow spots (i.e. an area near a bridge) also tend to be weaker.

To hear tragic stories regarding deaths caused by drowning or severe hypothermia seems to be an annual lesson. So, if you encounter a person or pet that has fallen through the ice...do you know what to do? Far too often one victim leads to two.



Here are the steps North Metro Fire Rescue asks the community to follow in an ice emergency:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately. Do NOT put off this first step.
- If it is an animal in the water—stay on solid ground and wait for emergency rescuers to arrive and attempt a rescue.
- If it is a human in the water:
 - ~ Stay off the ice and try to keep the victim calm. Tell them not to flail around and expend all their energy and heat in the water.
 - ~ If there is something nearby that you can use to reach the victim (i.e. a garden hose, a pair of skis, a rope, a pet's leash, etc.), keep your own body low to the ground and throw it out to the victim.
 - ~ If the victim is still able to grip, attempt to pull them towards the shore.
 - ~ If you are successful in helping the victim out, he/she is still in danger from the extreme temperatures. (This is an additional reason why you should not delay calling 9-1-1).

Understanding the physical properties and complexities of ice, helps to explain why ice is so unpredictable. And, it also helps show why the only absolute safety factor on ice is to stay off of it.

New Law Involving Cellular Telephone Use While Driving



By Officer Brian Gunn, Traffic Unit

On December 1, 2009 a new Colorado State statute went into affect that imposes new restrictions regarding the use of a cell while operating a motor vehicle. The information below helps explain this recent change.

C.R.S. 42-4-239. Misuse of a wireless telephone

(2) A person under eighteen years of age shall not use a wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle.

(3) A person eighteen years of age or older shall not use a wireless telephone for the purpose of engaging in text messaging or other similar forms of manual data entry or transmission while operating a motor vehicle.

(6) (a) An operator of a motor vehicle shall not be cited for a violation of subsection (2) of this section unless the operator was under eighteen years of age and a law enforcement officer saw the operator use a wireless telephone.

(6) (b) An operator of a motor vehicle shall not be cited for a violation of subsection (3) of this section unless the operator was eighteen years of age or older and a law enforcement officer saw the operator use a wireless telephone for the purpose of engaging in text messaging or other similar forms of manual data entry or transmission.

Sections 2 and 3 do not apply to drivers who use a cell phone during an emergency or to contact the police. Since an officer must witness the violation, this cannot be written following a traffic accident or citizen complaint.

Synopsis of the law:

If a person is under the age of 18 they can not use a cellular telephone at all while driving a motor vehicle except during an emergency or to contact the police. If the driver is over 18 they can not use a cellular telephone to text or similar forms of manual data entry while driving a motor vehicle, and that **ALL** offenses must be witnessed by a law enforcement officer.



Your Garage Door is a Gateway to Crime!

Sources Cited: Tom Adair, "Your Garage is a Gateway to Crime", Examiner.com, Crime Prevention, December 2009

Your open garage door, perhaps more than any other feature of your home, is the preferred gateway for criminals. To the criminal an open door is an invitation for theft or entering your home. It is literally a neon sign which not only facilitates crime, but encourages it. In other words, if you leave your garage door open you are much more likely to get targeted than your neighbor. The simple reason is ease of access. Criminals by and large are lazy so they're looking for an "easy score". What could be easier than entering a darkened garage to help yourself to tools, vehicle contents, or gaining unfettered access to the interior of your home.

What does your garage say about you?

Interestingly, a criminal can tell a lot about you and your personal wealth by looking in your garage.

- Do you drive an expensive vehicle that is kept clean and tidy?
- Is your garage finished and painted and kept neat and tidy?
- What kinds of tools, bikes, "toys" do you have and are they organized?
- Do you have dog food sitting out?

The cleanliness and organization of the garage usually correlates to the interior of the home as well. If your garage, and its contents, looks expensive the criminal will assume the interior of your home is that way too. That's not to say I



recommend keeping a cluttered garage, simply that you advertise your wealth with an open door.

What an open garage tells the criminal?

An open garage tells the criminal that you are either negligent or careless in regards to personal safety. Studies have shown that most people who routinely leave their garage doors open also leave their vehicles and homes unlocked. These same people also have a tendency to leave purses or wallets and car keys either in the unlocked vehicle or just inside the doorway to the home. Over the years I have investigated countless motor vehicle thefts that occurred because the keys were left in the ignition of an unlocked car in an open garage. It is just way too tempting a target for a thief to pass up even if they only intended to steal small items.

Open garages facilitate serious crimes too:

Some people believe that the worst that will happen to them is that the thief will take a few tools or sports items. Nothing could be further from the truth. As I have said, an open garage door is an invitation to come in. Criminals may enter a home believing you are gone and when the confrontation occurs it can have deadly consequences. Sometimes you may not even know you have been targeted for another reason and leaving the door open makes it that much easier for the criminal to contact you.



So what can you do to protect yourself?

- First and foremost close your garage door (and teach your children to do the same)
- Install a deadbolt on any other interior doors to the garage or home
- Consider the use of a keypad entry device
- Get to know your neighbors and once a trust is developed, consider giving them the garage code and asking them to close your door if you forget
- Turn your door opener off and unplug it when away on vacation
- Lock your vehicle and interior doors to the home even when the garage door is closed

These are simple yet effective steps you can take to minimize your chances of becoming a victim of crime. Remember, criminals are looking for an easy crime...don't make it easier for them. **Close and lock your garage door!**

If you see or hear anything suspicious, call the Police!



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

Healthy Pet Resources

Animal Control

Non-emergency 303-438-6400

Emergency 9-1-1

Emergency Clinics

Northside Emergency Clinic 303-252-7722

845 W. 124th Ave., Westminster, CO 80234

Community Pet Hospital 720-279-9524

12311 Washington St., Thornton, CO 80241

Boulder Emergency Pet Clinic 303-440-7722

1658 30th Street, Boulder, CO 80301

Local Veterinarians

Animal Doctor 303-466-8888

1705 W. 10th Ave., Broomfield, CO 80020

Arrowhead Animal Hospital 303-469-1616

11490 Sheridan Blvd., Westminster, CO 80020

Aspen Animal Hospital 303-469-1846

11970 Quay St., Broomfield, CO 80020

Broadland's Vet Clinic 303-410-8522

3800 W. 144th Ave., Broomfield, CO 80020

Broomfield Vet Hospital 303-466-1764

5175 W. 120th Ave., Broomfield, CO 80020

Laurel Vet Clinic 303-469-5363

1480 W. Midway Blvd., Broomfield, CO 80020

Local Shelters

Humane Society of Boulder Valley 303-442-4030

2323 55th Street, Boulder, CO 80301

Denver Dumb Friends League 303-751-5772

2080 S. Quebec St., Denver, CO 80231

Mile High Humane Society 303-452-2224

11470 York St., Thornton, CO 80234

TIPS FOR HEALTHY PETS

By Donna Shimid, Animal Control Officer

ID and License—Keep current identification and license tags on your pet at all times. If your pet becomes lost or injured, proper identification assists the finder with contacting you. Broomfield residents will receive a Broomfield rabies tag from local vets when their pet is vaccinated. Residents may also obtain a Broomfield rabies tag by contacting the Community Assistance Center at One DesCombes Drive (*there is a nominal fee and proof of current vaccination must be provided*).

Microchips—Getting your pet microchipped provides an additional means of contacting you. If your pet has a microchip, make sure your contact information is kept up-to-date and that your microchip is actually registered with the microchip company. Remember that a microchip is not a substitute for tags.

Collars—Dogs and cats should wear collars that carry their identification and license tags. Collars should be sized so that a minimum of two fingers can be placed comfortably between the collar and the animal's skin. To prevent serious injury, the size of the collar needs to increase as the animal grows. Consider using a "break away" collar for your cat.

Cat Safety—Keep your cat indoors. Cats have many natural predators and are at risk of being injured or killed by traffic. Consider talking to your veterinarian or an animal shelter for tips on happy indoor living for your cat.

Health Care—Take your pet to a veterinarian for regular check-ups. The veterinarian can tell you how often your pet should be examined and vaccinated. Keep veterinary and emergency phone numbers readily available. Know the location of emergency clinics in your area.

Spay and Neuter—Help with pet overpopulation. Spay or neuter your pets to reduce the number of unwanted animals that are euthanized each year. Also, an animal that is spayed or neutered is less likely to want to get out of your yard. There are various resources for this service such as, veterinary clinics, shelters, and non-profit organizations.

Car and Truck Safety—When riding in vehicles, animals should be secured inside carriers or with pet-appropriate seatbelts. This eliminates driver distraction and in the event of an accident, secured pets may avoid serious injury or death and are less likely to escape into traffic or unfamiliar territory. This also allows emergency personnel safe access to passengers in the vehicle. If an air bag deploys, pets riding in the front seats of vehicles could be at risk of death or serious injury. Dogs riding in truck beds are safest in crates. It is not recommended that pets be left unattended in vehicles. Heat stroke may lead to permanent brain damage or death.

Vacations—If you are going away and your pet can't come with you, be sure to arrange for appropriate care. For most animals, simply leaving food and water is not enough. Pet-sitters, kennels, friends and neighbors are good sources of care while you are away. Ensure that whoever cares for your pet has the phone number for Animal Control as well as other emergency contact information.

Disaster Planning—Include your pet in your family disaster plan. Most emergency shelters do not allow animals inside, so be proactive and make alternative arrangements. Contact Emergency Management at 720-887-2084 for information on creating your family disaster plan.

Know Your Pet—Invest time and energy into learning what your pet needs to be healthy, happy and safe. Books, veterinarians, and professional trainers are great resources to help you train your pet and learn about your pet's specific needs.

Life Without You—Plan for time when you may not be able to care for your pet. Ask friends or family, in advance, to assume responsibility for your pet. This is a way to ensure that your pet will have a happy future. If friends and family are unable to care for your pet, consider taking the pet to an animal shelter or rescue. Be sure to document any plans for your pet in your will.

We're on the Web!

Access the City and County of
Broomfield website at:

<http://www.broomfield.org>