



Winter
2011

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CIRCULAR

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

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



NETWORKING

Community
Police
Fire

Health & Human Services
American Red Cross

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Information provided by www.weather.com

DRIVING IN SNOW AND ICE

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it.

If you must go out wait until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.



- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind them.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your rear wheels skid...

- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
- If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.
- If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
- If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse—this is normal.

If you get stuck...

- Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.

- Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
- Use a light touch on the gas to ease your car out.
- Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
- Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help traction.

Happy New Year!

I can't believe that we're already into the third week of January 2011. I hope that all of you enjoyed the holiday season and the opportunity this time of year brings to spend time with family and friends.

The Winter 2011 edition of the Neighborhood Watch newsletter contains information on winter driving, child safety, identity theft, auto theft prevention, pet safety, and carbon monoxide. As you can see from this vast array of information our Neighborhood Watch program....is not just crime prevention anymore!

I am in the planning stages of hosting our next Block Captain Training in February. This meeting will include a panel of police personnel from a variety of assignments that can address questions from each of you. Watch for the invites and have your questions ready. I look forward to seeing all of you then.

Thanks,
Joleen



“Child Safety & Stranger Awareness”

By Joleen Reefer, Public Education Coordinator

What Every Parent or Guardian Should Know!

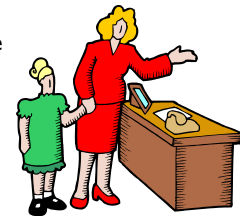
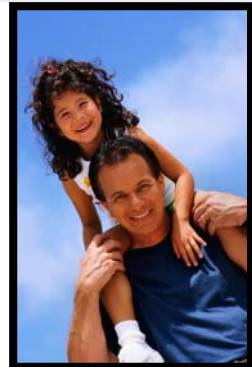
- Define for your child who is a “stranger.”
 - ~ Many people look friendly, but if you don’t know them personally they are strangers.
 - ~ Strangers can be men, women or even other children. They can be tall or short, old or young, big or little.
- Rehearse possible “stranger” situations with your child so he/she will know how to say “No,” should the real situation ever occur.
- Keep a recent photo of your child, a copy of your child’s fingerprints, and an updated record of his/her height and weight. Also, make a mental note of what your child is wearing every day.
- Never mark your child’s clothing, toys, book bag, etc. with his or her first name.
- Carefully check all baby-sitter references.
- Never leave small children home alone or unattended.
- If you must go somewhere without your child, pre-designate a neighbor’s house or apartment as a “safe house” where your child knows they can go in the event of a problem. Tell the neighbor when you’re leaving and when you plan to return.
- Be sure your child knows his/her name, address, city, state and phone number (including area code). Show him or her how to dial 911 in case of an emergency.
- Encourage your child to respect his or her body and mind. Explain that he or she has a right to safety and self-respect.
- Show your child love and attention to help him/her not to be easily swayed by a stranger’s interest. One way of doing this is by taking the time to listen to your child and help him or her feel comfortable discussing sensitive matters with you.
- If your child is old enough to visit friends on his/her own, be sure that you tell him/her to let you know, “WHERE they are going, WHO they are playing with and WHEN they will return.”



- Stay involved in your child’s life. The more actively you participate in what your child does, the better chance he/she will have of avoiding strangers, as well as situations involving drugs and gangs.

Important Safety Facts that Children Should Know!

- Never tell anyone on the phone when you are home alone. Say your parents are busy and you will take a message.
- If someone comes to the door, it’s okay to not answer it. Never open the door for anyone you do not know.
- Internet safety is important. Never give out your name, address or personal information to anyone over the internet. Never agree to meet anyone who has contacted you online.
- If a stranger offers you a ride you should run away and tell someone, i.e. your parents, your babysitter, the police. Never go close to a stranger’s car. Teach your child a secret code word for emergencies. If the person picking them up does not know the code, do not go with them!
- Never take anything from a stranger! Say “NO!”
 - ~ Never go near a stranger who is offering you candy or money.
 - ~ Never go with a stranger who says they are looking for a lost pet. These are tricks to get you close to the stranger. Say “NO!” RUNAWAY! And immediately tell your parent or guardian and the police right away.
- It is okay to tell someone if they make you feel uncomfortable. Loudly tell them “NO!”
- Never wander away from your parents when you are out in public. Try not to panic if you become lost.
 - ~ If you are out shopping with your parents and become lost, go to the nearest checkout counter and tell the clerk. Do not leave the store. They will help you find your parents. If you are lost and see a police officer, you can ask them for help. It is important to know your name, address, and telephone number.
- It is safer to be with a friend or group when you are out in public. Stay near your parent or guardian when you are out. Never wander away alone.





WINTER PET SAFETY TIPS

By Animal Control Officer Pam Owens,



Winter weather brings special concerns for our outdoor furry friends. Colorado weather can change drastically in a short amount of time and temperatures can vary from day to day. Some of the following suggestions will help to ensure that our pets are safe and comfortable during the winter months.

- If possible keep pets inside during cold weather.
- Provide adequate shelter. The appropriate sized dog house is important, providing a small cozy space increases the heat retention for your pet.
- Adding insulation to the dog house will help keep it cool in the summer and warm in the winter.
- Place the dog house on bricks or wooden pallet to create a space underneath. This air pocket keeps moisture out and helps circulate warm air within the dog house.
- Straw nested inside the dog house will supply a dry warm place.
- Place a piece of carpet in front of the dog house door to keep the wind out.
- Make sure that water sources do not freeze. Heated water bowls are available at local pet stores.
- Increase the food source for extra energy needed to stay warm.
- Know your neighbors so that they can take care of your animals if the weather changes and you are unable to get home.
- When coming in from the outside take the time to wipe your pet's paws, legs and stomach to remove the residue of snow and ice melt. Avoid allowing your pet to drink standing water on the streets and sidewalks when possible.



Keep in mind that the Colorado sun produces intense heat all year round, and may raise the temperature inside of a vehicle to dangerous levels. Please leave your pets at home on sunny days year round.

For additional information contact Broomfield Police Animal Control at 303-438-6400.



IDENTITY THEFT TIP FROM INVESTIGATIONS

By Detective Mike Sveta, Broomfield Police Department

Did you know that your personal information is easily accessible to the public through a number of public people finder websites? You can reduce your exposure and limit others access on the internet by blocking your personal information on public people finder websites, thus reducing the opportunity for thieves to use your identity for fraud scams. On your computer go to:

- www.pipl.com scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click on "privacy"...follow the instructions.
- www.zabasearch.com scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click on "privacy"...follow the instructions.



Repeat this process for every "people finder" website you can find.



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

Puffer Season

It's nothing to celebrate!

Excerpts taken from Colorado State Patrol (11/30/10)

"Puffer" is the term describing exhaust vapors that come out of tailpipe when a vehicle is running in cold weather. This can alert thieves that your vehicle is unlocked with the keys in the ignition - making it an easy steal. Statistics show that auto thefts spike during the cold winter months due to puffers.

If your morning routine includes starting your car and leaving it running while you go back inside to prepare your first cup of coffee, you may be at risk of becoming the next victim of auto theft.

Leaving your vehicle running unattended is the same as handing over your car to an auto thief. Once the thief has your vehicle they can continue on their way and commit other more serious crimes. Keep in mind that the cost to replace your stolen vehicle is passed on to consumers just like you and I through higher insurance premiums.

Don't get caught celebrating "Puffer Season!" Allow extra time during the cold winter months to remain with your vehicle while it is warming up. Most of us believe that "it will never happen to me," but in reality none of us are exempt. Don't help out an auto thief!

THE SILENT KILLER

THE FACTS ON CARBON MONOXIDE

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

What is invisible, odorless, colorless, tasteless, and extremely deadly? Carbon Monoxide (CO). In fact, carbon monoxide is the top poison killer in the United States. This is why North Metro recommends that every household installs working CO alarms. Smoke alarms cannot detect the presence of CO – you need to ensure that you install both types (or a combination Smoke/CO alarm).

CO is produced whenever any fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. If appliances that require these fuels are maintained and in good working order, the amount of Carbon Monoxide people are exposed to is usually not hazardous. However, if the appliances are malfunctioning or not used properly, dangerous levels of CO can result.

Don't use the age of the appliances as your guide on whether or not it is working properly—even brand new appliances can have installation problems or mechanical malfunctions early in their lifespan.

CO does its damage by binding tightly to red blood cells and keeping oxygen from getting to the organs in our bodies. Without oxygen, cells begin dying and then so do our organs.

How to Protect Yourself

Begin by installing CO alarms in central locations of your home. Place an alarm near the sleeping areas of your house and be sure that there is one CO alarm on each level of the house. CO alarms should be placed high up on the wall or on the ceiling since CO rises in warm temperatures. The next essential step is to maintain these alarms so they can work for you! Test the CO alarms each month, following the manufacturer's instructions and replace the alarms' batteries every six months.

Additional safety tips include never warming up your vehicle inside your garage. Pull the vehicle out to your driveway in order to have plenty of air to help dissipate the CO – and please stay with your vehicle. Also have your fireplace, furnace and wood stove inspected each year for any cracks or mechanical problems. Finally, only use your barbecue grill outside—never in your home or your garage.

If Your CO Alarm Sounds

Act quickly if your CO Alarm activates! Get everyone in the house outside immediately. Then use a cell phone or borrow a phone at your neighbor's house to call 9-1-1. Finally, do not re-enter your home until the fire department or utility company says it is safe.

Wendy Forbes is the Public Information Officer of North Metro Fire Rescue District. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to the City and County of Broomfield. For more information or to contact Wendy, please call (303) 452-9910 or visit the North Metro Fire Rescue web site at www.northmetrofire.org.



We're on the Web!

Access the City and County of Broomfield website at:

<http://www.broomfield.org>