

Neighborhood News

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | October 2022

Quick Tip:

Have you checked your Homeowner's insurance policy lately? Homeowners insurance policies often have different deductibles depending on the type of loss you experience. Some of these deductibles can be several thousand dollars. The time to learn the amount of your deductible is now, not at the time of loss or damage. An annual review is recommended to help prepare you when initiating a claim during a disaster.



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Neighborhood Watch Program



Preparedness Ideas for You and Your Family

Practicing good daily preparedness can be critical to you and your family's safety. Every September is identified as "National Preparedness Month". The goal during this time is to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. It is a great idea during this time to start making plans for your house and family to prepare for potential disasters, such as weather or fire, or re-evaluate any current plans you might have already implemented. The message is to have a plan and be prepared if you find yourself or your family involved in a disaster such as wildland fire, snowstorms, or other related natural disasters that can occur relatively unexpected. Throughout this newsletter, numerous topics of interest will be discussed, however, more in-depth information can be found by searching for National Preparedness Week. Various agencies, both local and nationally, support the NPM initiative and have published brochures and educational information to help you and your family prepare for these potential incidents. I was refreshed of some of the topics listed below from an article posted by Mr. Joseph Porcelli on August 23, 2021 from Nextdoor. In a previous newsletter in 2021, I addressed these issues and decided it is important to readdress these ideas once again as we are coming into winter months in Colorado.

Do you know the difference between a weather Watch and a weather Warning?

It is important note the difference so you can be better informed potential harmful elements in your area or community. A Watch essentially means all the determinants/elements for a weather event to possibly occur and are present and you should keep an eye out for further possible developments. A Warning means that a weather event is present

or near your area and you should seek shelter immediately at the nearest safe location. Local police and fire departments, emergency managers, the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and private industry are working together to make sure you can receive alerts and warnings quickly through several different technologies no matter where you are—at home, at school, at work, or in the community.

Are your house numbers clearly visible from the street?

When you have lived at your residence for any amount of time, you may find yourself rarely paying attention to your house numbers (address). In the event of an emergency, maybe when several seconds count, responding emergency personnel such as police, Fire, or EMS will need to locate you easier and faster and by having house numbers or addresses that are clear and easy to read expedite in that process. Make sure all the numbers are still there and if possible, easily read from the street. Confirm there is nothing hindering address visibility, such as vegetation or landscape. Finally, please make sure the numbers (address) are well lit during dark hours to assist first responders.

Do you have a NOAA weather radio in your home?

Although cell phones and various other media sites provide great information, a NOAA radio will give you an audible warning of potentially dangerous weather approaching. Weather radios broadcast continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office in

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your area. You can select the type of broadcasts you want to hear including daily forecasts, severe weather warnings, watches, and other hazard information. These radios are cost effective and provide an audible warning to all the occupants in your residence that might not be near a cell phone, computer, or television set broadcasting dangerous weather approaching your area.

Do you have at least a three-day supply of water for each person in your household?

If the pipes in your home freeze, the electricity goes out and you have a well, or if there is a major blackout and your utility company is unable to pressurize water throughout your community, you will need 1 gallon of water per person per day for both drinking and sanitation. At the minimum, you should have a three-day supply of water on hand. If possible, you should consider storing enough water to last your household a week or more. Please don't hoard but, be prepared to assist you or other community members, if needed. Do you have enough non-perishable food to feed your household for a week? As we have seen in recent media and experiences here in Colorado, having perishable foods is a must. Following a disaster, power outages can last days, and you may need to rely on shelf-stable foods that do not require refrigeration or cooking. It is recommended that you have enough food to feed each person in your household for a week or more and a manual can opener. Sometimes the simple necessities, such as a manual can opener, will escape you during your preparation process!!!



Do you have enough battery power, or the ability to generate power, to stay safe and healthy during a power outage lasting more than 3 days?

Having backup battery power will allow you to let family members and friends know you are safe, and if needed, be able to call 911 and receive emergency notifications, such as snow warnings or other potentially dangerous weather alerts. It is important to note that on most current cellphones, you can still call 911 even if the phone does not have active current service, however the phone must be charged.

Have you identified more than one way to leave your neighborhood/community in an emergency?

What if the normal route you use to enter/exit your property is blocked for whatever reason? Do you have an alternate route you can use to get to safety? This was an issue during both the Black Forest and Waldo Canyon fires. As humans, we are typically systematic people meaning we become routine based and enter/exit our work areas or neighborhoods the same way every day. Challenge yourself to look at alternate ways to leave, if the situation dictates. During time of disaster is not the best time to find other alternatives.

Do you have a "Go kit"?

In the event of an emergency, you may not have time to quickly find or collect essential items. To name a few, a Go Kit is a collection of basic items, such as prescription medications, blankets, family documents/heirlooms, extra food and water for your pets and family members, which is assembled in a transportable kit in the event you need to quickly evacuate your home. Each kit is not generic in nature as you should consider your family's unique needs when determining what goes in your specific kit. For further information and suggestions, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>. You can also visit the American Red Cross' site for further recommendations.

Do you have a plan for your pets and large animals?

As you plan for your family, make sure you have not forgot about planning for your pets. Just as you would plan for your family's emergency supply kit, think about the basic survival needs your pet would require, such as food, water, and medications. Some items you should consider are several days of food and water, prescription medications, and an animal first aid kit. Make sure your pets ID tags are current and you have proper restraining devices set included such as collars and leashes. A picture of you and your pets is also ideal in the event you become separated from your animals.



Other key points to consider during your preparation planning might include creating a Family Disaster Plan that includes meeting locations and communication plans. This plan should also include the evacuation and housing of large animals as it applies to your family. Plan and practice several different evacuation routes. As an example, during a recent large fire in El Paso County, first responders and homeowners experienced the confusion and what can happen if the one route you are accustomed taking becomes blocked. It is critical to have multiple evacuation plans to include exiting your home, if required.

Upcoming Events

- No events of note currently
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Neighborhood Watch

A neighborhood watch system is easy to establish, simply by getting to know your neighbors within your neighborhood. In a Neighborhood Watch community, neighbors keep watch on each other's homes/property's and are encouraged to report any suspicious activity to either the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator or the El Paso County Sheriff's Office dispatch center. As one of the most successful community/law enforcement partnerships in the United States, this program aids law enforcement by creating a closer sense of community among citizens and furthermore builds a strong relationship with Sheriff's Office deputies. Neighbors who know each other become the Sheriff's Office "eyes and ears" within that community and develop an awareness of unusual circumstances and suspicious behaviors.

To learn more about the program, please contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator at 719-520-7151 to schedule a meeting or go to www.epcsheriffsoffice.com under the **Community** tab for further details.

Crime Prevention

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office is committed to helping our citizens keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime, the fear of crime and neighborhood decay. Working collaboratively with other local law enforcement officials, the Sheriff's Office assists to establish networking systems, provide educational materials, programs, training, and safety tutorials to promote pro-active crime prevention in our community. Through an active Community Oriented Policing philosophy, we believe that individual citizens should be empowered to work with law enforcement to help keep themselves and their families safe. Many programs we offer will provide tools that you can use to learn crime prevention strategies, engage other community members, and coordinate with local law enforcement to aid in crime prevention.

Interested in learning more about the Sheriff's Office?

Are you interested in learning more about what the Sheriff's Office has to offer residents of Unincorporated El Paso County? Request a representative from one of our numerous units to come and speak with your group.

To participate please go to www.epcsheriffsoffice.com and under **Community** select **Speakers Bureau** and submit the Speaker Request.

Crime Prevention Tips

Child Safety:

- Advise your children to never give out personal information to strangers and to tell you immediately if somebody asks.
- Educate your children on the importance of knowing how and when to use 911.
- Any time a situation has made a child uncomfortable they should tell a parent immediately.
- ***See something, Say Something**

Home:

- Place a metal or wooden rod in the track of sliding glass doors/windows.
- Have sufficient lighting at all household entrances.
- Do not hide keys; have a trusted person keep a spare.
- Explore the options for video doorbells and exterior cameras. These technologies are priceless when it comes to your safety and are extremely beneficial to law enforcement agencies when establishing suspect information or vehicle information involved in criminal activity.
- If you install a security system, make sure you are aware of the company's response policy and register your exterior cameras with the Sheriff's Office at www.epcsheriffoffice.com.

Vehicle Safety:

- Keep your car in good working condition.
- ALWAYS lock your car door even if you are only away from the vehicle for a few minutes.
- Park in well-lit areas. There is a huge increase in catalytic converter thefts across the county. Please be aware of this crime and park in lit areas or a garage, if possible.
- Check the back seat when entering your vehicle.
- Remove all weapons from your unoccupied vehicle.

Personal Safety:

- When walking, stay in well-lit areas; avoid bushes, alleys, unmarked trails, etc.
- Walk in groups or pairs, if possible.
- Be aware of your surroundings; look around to see if there are other people in the area.
- If something or someone doesn't seem right, "See something, Say something."

Register for the El Paso-Teller County Emergency Notification System (or Reverse 911). This system is used to advise residents of any situation that threatens harm to life and/or property or is deemed dangerous by officials. This could be man-made disasters, crime, pandemics and hazardous materials incidents, missing persons, evacuation notifications, neighborhood emergencies and similar important issues. To register for this service or for more information go to www.elpasoteller911.org.

Schedule the Crime Prevention Coordinator to come to your residence and conduct a CPTED evaluation (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This evaluation is a free service and takes about 30 minutes to complete. A few of the items evaluated are lights, locks, landscape, and security areas. This evaluation will give you **"options to consider"** to make your residence more secure.

****You can now go to the Community Crime Map which is a Lexis Nexis product to check the crime activity in your neighborhood or community. It will show the same numbers that I present at meetings with some limitations such as names, addresses, etc. for privacy reasons but it is a great snapshot of activity in your areas. You can also utilize the map in your travels if you plan on traveling out of state. This product is an excellent means of showing crime activity across the nation. ****

HELP US HELP YOU BY CHOOSING NOT TO BECOME A VICTIM OF CRIME AND MAKING IT TOUGH FOR CRIMINALS TO COMMIT THEIR CRIMES.

****ADDITIONAL NOTE/REQUEST – The residential and commercial building industry is ever increasing. With that, home builders and commercial builders are experiencing huge losses in lumber and associated lumber products at their jobsites. Residential home builders' hours are typically 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. If you witness a vehicle at a jobsite after those hours loading lumber or other materials, please contact the Sheriff's Office or Colorado Springs Police Department IMMEDIATELY to report your viewings. A good vehicle description or license plate is extremely helpful if you can acquire one SAFELY!! If not, at a minimum, please report the incident****



FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (non-emergency crime reporting): **390-5555**

EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): **520-7111**

EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): **520-7192**

EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): **520-7777**

Always remember to report criminal activity or suspicious behavior promptly.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator: **520-7151**

Going on Vacation?

Going on vacation can sometimes be stressful. Let us help you relax a bit. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office provides a service in unincorporated El Paso County when Patrol Deputies or Citizen's Patrol volunteers are available. During these times, they will conduct directed patrol checks at your properties while you are away.

To participate please go to www.epcsheriffsoffice.com and under Services select Vacation Check Request Form.



Crimes in Your Neighborhood: Highlights From *Jan 1 - Apr 6*

District 1

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	7
Burglaries	9
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	10
Thefts	31
Criminal Mischief	12
Fraud/Forgery	14
Traffic Incidents	246

District 2

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	4
Burglaries	6
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	1
Thefts	34
Criminal Mischief	5
Fraud/Forgery	13
Traffic Incidents	66

District 3

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	26
Burglaries	10
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	17
Thefts	84
Criminal Mischief	98
Fraud/Forgery	27
Traffic Incidents	251

District 4

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	7
Burglaries	5
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	1
Thefts	14
Criminal Mischief	15
Fraud/Forgery	12
Traffic Incidents	14

District 5

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	19
Burglaries	17
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	11
Thefts	76
Criminal Mischief	73
Fraud/Forgery	33
Traffic Incidents	80

District 6

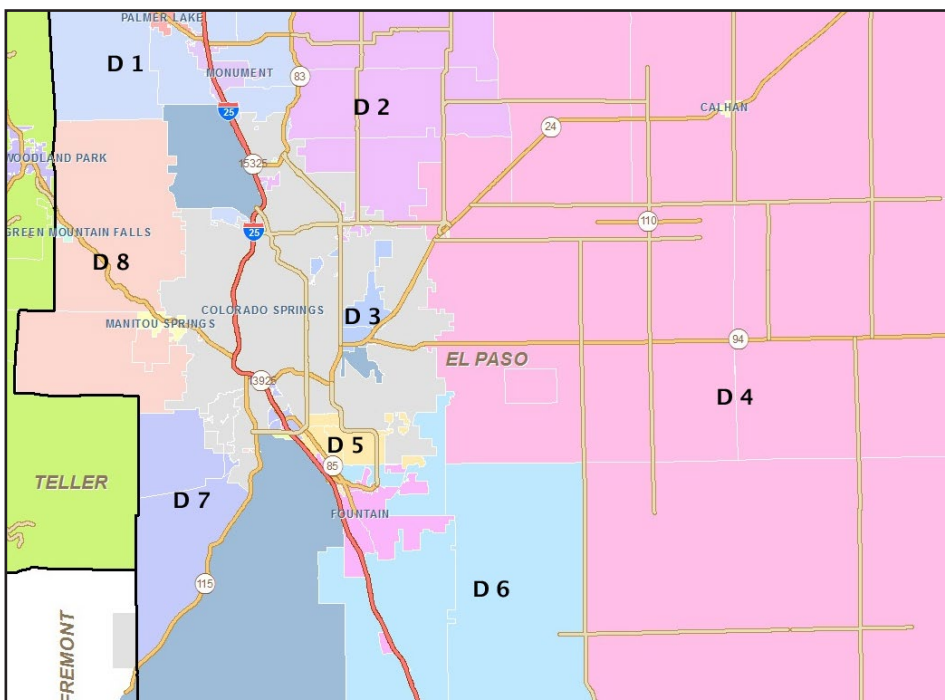
Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	8
Burglaries	8
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	4
Thefts	33
Criminal Mischief	31
Fraud/Forgery	11
Traffic Incidents	73

District 7

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	13
Burglaries	11
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	6
Thefts	40
Criminal Mischief	44
Fraud/Forgery	10
Traffic Incidents	44

District 8

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	3
Burglaries	0
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	7
Thefts	9
Criminal Mischief	13
Fraud/Forgery	5
Traffic Incidents	8



District 1—Woodmoor/Canterbury, Gleneagle, Kings Deer, Club Villas, Palmer Lake, Monument

District 2—Black Forest, Wissler Ranch, Hawk Ridge

District 3—Cimarron Hills, Constitution Hills, Claremont Ranch, Park Vista & Siefert

District 4—Woodmen Hills, Falcon, areas east of Meridian Road

District 5—Security, Fountain Valley, Colorado Centre, Clearview Estates, Southmoor

District 6—Widefield and Little Ranches area

District 7—Stratmoor Valley, Stratmoor Hills, B Street, Hwy 115

District 8—West Colorado Avenue, Ute Pass, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Rampart Range

The above statistics reflect the various assigned Sheriff's Office districts and furthermore illustrate a "snapshot" into what the Sheriff's Office is experiencing across El Paso County. If you are interested in individual neighborhoods or areas, please contact Mr. Brent Ambuehl, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office at (719) 520-7151 or email at brentambuehl@elpasoco.com for more specific information. You can also utilize the Community Crime Map from Lexis Nexis to provide a snapshot of the criminal activity in your neighborhood or community. The map can be accessed at www.communitycrimemap.com