

# Boulder Police Department Resource Guide



And 2006 Annual Report

Although there are never any safety guarantees, there are some basic safety tips that can be followed daily to help reduce the likelihood of victimization.

- When you are out in public, carry yourself confidently.
- Keep personal belongings close to you and never carry more cash or credit cards than you need for what you are doing.
- Keep doors and windows of your residence locked when you are away.
- Doors should also be locked when you are home, as it is not uncommon for burglars to enter a home even if someone is inside.
- Keep car doors locked while you are driving and never leave your vehicle running unattended.

What to do if you see a crime taking place:

Although there are people who will physically intervene to stop a crime in progress, this can be extremely dangerous. The police department strongly cautions people to fully assess the situation before taking this type of action. Crime witnesses can be a great help to a case. If you see a crime occurring **call 911 immediately**.

- Provide dispatchers with the location and what is occurring.
- Be observant, especially with regard to any suspects. Information you provide can be valuable for identifying the suspect.
- Remain at the scene in case additional information is needed when officers arrive.

### Boulder Crime Clock

- 344 traffic summonses issued every week
- 1 act of vandalism every 8 hours
- 1 sexual assault every 10.4 days\*\*
- 1 burglary every 18 hours
- 1 robbery every 12.6 days
- 1 traffic accident every 2.5 hours
- 1 theft every 3.7 hours
- 1 DUI arrest every 8 hours
- 1 vehicle theft every 2.3 days

\*\* Includes 1st and 2nd degree sexual assault, but does not include misdemeanor sex offenses.

	2004	2005	2006
Rape	35	42	35
Robbery	40	34	29
Aggravated Assault	89	140	164
Burglary	574	551	487
Theft	3,049	2,821	2,372
Vehicle Theft	166	252	157
Forgery	124	88	76
Criminal Mischief	1,003	1,043	1,088
Arson	21	64	72

Many law enforcement agencies around the county, including the Boulder Police Department, saw a decrease in the major crime rates during 2006. These major crimes, called Part I crimes, include such crimes as murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and arson. In 2006, Boulder saw its first homicide in four years and slight increases in aggravated assaults and arsons. All other categories declined, resulting in a 15% decrease in Part I crimes over 2005 crime rates.



The mission of the police department is "Working with the community to provide service and safety." We believe this continuing partnership is the key to the city's decline in major crimes. There is no doubt that greater participation by the community helps to reduce crime, whether it is a willingness to become directly involved in stopping criminal behavior or just following personal safety precautions to prevent victimization. It all adds up in the end to a lower overall crime rate.

# Dispatch

The 9-1-1 emergency number often becomes a person's lifeline for urgent assistance and should be used to report a crime that's in progress or about to occur. 9-1-1 can also be used in any situation where serious injury can occur, or there is any suspicious activity. 9-1-1 should also be used in situations where fire fighting apparatus or an ambulance is required.

Response time from when a call is placed to Dispatch, to when an officer arrives is approximately four minutes. Although this may seem like a long time when you are waiting for a response, be assured that trained personnel are on their way to assist you as quickly as possible.

**Only call 9-1-1 to report an emergency** - a situation in which immediate assistance is required. Be prepared to give your exact location to the dispatcher, especially if you are calling from a cell phone.

Ask yourself:

- Do you have a police emergency?
- What is the level of urgency?
- Is there a danger to life or property?
- Are you or someone else the victim of a crime?
- Do you or someone else have a medical emergency?
- Do you need the fire department?

**The non-emergency number is (303) 441-3333**

If the situation is not an emergency, call the non-emergency number at 303 441-3333. You will reach the same, well-trained dispatchers without causing a delay for those needing an emergency response.

The Boulder Police Communications Center answered nearly 199,000 calls in 2006. More than 34,000 of those were 9-1-1 calls. The busiest hours of the day for the communications center to receive calls are between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

# Patrol

After you have contacted dispatch, appropriate personnel will be dispatched to your call. Calls are prioritized by need and the number of officers available. An officer's response to an incident that is not in progress may be delayed if there are other in-progress situations occurring at the same time. Be assured that an officer will handle your call just as quickly as circumstances allow.

When the officer arrives provide them with as much information as possible about what has occurred and who may be involved. Depending on the circumstances, officers may need to process the scene of the crime for evidence. Depending on the situation, they can either do this themselves, call for an officer who is a Crime Scene Investigator, or call for a Criminalist to process the scene.

During their shift, the officer will complete a written report about the crime or incident, documenting the circumstances and people involved, evidence collected, and any leads in the case. In many cases, the reporting officer will also complete any follow up needed to investigate the case. If the case is more involved, the officer will forward the information to detectives.

If you have been the victim of a crime, how can you help police?

- Contact the police department right away.
- Do not touch anything in the crime scene. An undisturbed crime scene increases the likelihood of obtaining usable evidence in a case.
- Provide as much information as possible to the officer. Even small details are important.

Also, take photos of valuables, record serial numbers to keep in a safe place, and register expensive items such as bicycles and laptop computers with the Boulder Police Department. You may never be the victim of a crime, but if you are, these steps may help police recover your items more quickly.

# Detectives

Boulder Police Detectives are assigned to three different sections, major crimes which handle homicides, robberies and assaults; financial and family crimes; and general crimes. By working specific types of cases, detectives can develop a specialized knowledge base and recognize pattern crimes more easily. The case load each detective carries will vary throughout the year.

## Detectives:

- Conduct follow up investigations after an initial report is taken by an officer.
- Locate and interview additional victims or witnesses in cases.
- Interview potential suspects.
- Prepare arrest warrant affidavits for suspects.
- Prepare cases for trial and act as an advisory witness to the District Attorney's Office.
- Maintain the sex offender registration database.

In order to keep the community informed, the police department has posted a current list of registered sex offenders in the city on its Web page. In addition, this list is available in print at the Public Safety Building. The community is encouraged to use this list as a tool in maintaining personal safety. The list can be helpful in identifying sex offenders who live in your neighborhood, but should be used wisely. As with anyone, sex offenders can move about in the community. The list should not be used for any sort of vigilantism. The department encourages the reporting of any suspicious activity immediately. To view the department's sex offender list on-line, visit [www.boulder-police.com](http://www.boulder-police.com) and follow the Quick Reference link on the left to Sex Offenders.

Boulder Police Department's case clearance rate, either through arrest or other means is 32%, which is consistent with the national average.

# Traffic

In Colorado, traffic accidents continue to be one of the leading causes of death for nearly all age groups.

Although most people dread the possibility of getting a traffic ticket, the goal of the traffic stop and yes, even the ticket, is to educate the driver and prevent future violations.

Blind spots can also be a contributing factor in accidents, but proper mirror adjustment can help to reduce blind spots and allow for safer lane changes.

Many people adjust their side mirrors so they can see the side of their own vehicle in about one third of the mirror, and what is beside them in the other two thirds. This creates blind spots. Adjusting mirrors outward can help reduce these spots.



While sitting in the driver's seat, lean toward the driver's window. Adjust the driver's mirror out until you just barely can see the side of your car.

Lean toward the center of your vehicle and adjust the passenger side mirror in the same manner, moving it outward until you just barely can see the side of your car.

This view will take some getting used to, especially if you are used to seeing your own car in the side mirrors while driving. The goal is to set up your mirrors so that once a car

leaves your rear view mirror, it appears in your side view mirror, and once it leaves your side view mirror, it appears in your side window or peripheral vision.

In 2006, department members responded to 3,552 traffic accidents, 537 of which included injuries and four involved fatalities. 1,123 individuals were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and 17,914 traffic tickets were issued.



# Identity Theft

A hot topic for crime prevention in 2006 was identity theft, which occurs when a criminal obtains the personal information of someone else and uses that information to commit a crime.

Thieves are looking for any personal identifiers, like social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, etc.

Thieves get personal information by:

- Rummaging through people's trash.
- "Skimming" your credit card number as it is being processed using a special storage device.
- Stealing wallets and purses containing credit cards and bank information.
- Stealing incoming and outgoing mail.
- Scamming information while posing as a legitimate business person.
- Listening in on conversations in which people are divulging personal information.

Protect yourself and reduce your risk by:

- Not giving out personal information to someone you do not know, especially if they initiated the transaction.
- Protecting your personal identification numbers (PINs) and passwords that allow access to your accounts
- Remembering that your bank will never e-mail you or call you and ask you to provide that information.
- Taking outgoing mail to a postal drop box and picking up your incoming mail as soon as possible after delivery.
- Using a vacation hold with the Post Office if you will be on vacation.



- Being aware of identity theft scams that have the appearance of a sweepstakes, raffle or survey.
- Shredding all documents that contain personal information or account numbers.

- Shredding any pre-approved credit cards offers you do not use.
- Being aware of your surroundings and potential "shoulder surfers" when you are using the ATM.
- Ignoring suspicious or unsolicited e-mails, particularly those that appear to be from banks, credit card companies, financial institutions, and internet service providers. These are most often "phishing" scams and the thief is using a page that looks similar to that of your bank or other provider and asking you to verify account information. Even opening these e-mails can unleash embedded programs, or spyware.
- Order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus a least once a year.  
Equifax at (800) 685-1111  
Experian at (888) EXPERIAN (397-3742)  
TransUnion at (800) 888-4213

If you are a victim of identity theft:

- File a report with your local police department.
- Contact the fraud department at the three major credit bureaus:  
Equifax at [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com) or (888) 766-0008  
Experian at [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com) or (888) EXPERIAN  
TransUnion at [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com) or (800) 680-7289
- Contact other creditors on accounts that may have been tampered with.
- Contact the Social Security hotline at (800) 269-0271 if your Social Security number was used.
- Report any fraudulent use of your checks to:  
Check Rite/Global Payments at (800) 638-4600  
SCAN at (800) 262-7771  
Tele-Check at (800) 710-9898  
Chex Systems at (800) 328-5121

Often times in cases of identity theft, the victim is not aware of anything missing. It is a good idea to check your bank statements every month to ensure that everything is as expected.

# Victim Services

Victims of crime or those experiencing a crisis often need assistance getting their lives back to some level of normalcy and need interaction and assistance far beyond what a responding officer can usually provide. That is where victim advocates come in. Boulder Police Department's volunteer victim advocates helped more than 480 victims in 2006, with more than 1,000 others served by office staff in the Victim Services section of the department.

Victim advocates provide the following services to victims and witnesses of crimes and other critical incidents, as well as their families:

- Short-term crisis intervention and emotional support.
- General information about the criminal justice system.
- Updates on the progress of a case.
- Information about available community resources.
- Contact support people, such as family and friends, to be with a victim.
- Referral information for service providers, such as hospice care, when long-term follow up is necessary
- General information about programs and services in the form of handouts and brochures.
- Scene response at the request of law enforcement, the fire department, or the coroner's office for calls such as suicides, unattended deaths, death notifications, bank robberies, fires, domestic violence and homicides.

About 10 advocates are trained in Group Crisis Intervention, for use when there is a large group affected by some type of tragedy.



# Records

The police department maintains copies of every crime and incident report officers take. The Records and Information Services (RIS) section collects, logs, enters and stores all of these reports and is the primary contact for members of the public seeking the information contained in reports.

RIS has the following responsibilities, among others:

- Fingerprinting services for licensing purposes.
- Provide releases for impounded vehicles.
- Assist the public with counter reports of accidents.
- Compile statistical and other reporting information when requested by local media.

In an effort to provide convenient services to a wide range of people, the department offers on-line police reporting for many non-emergency, non-violent crimes or incidents in which there is no information on the suspect.

Crimes that can be reported on-line include:

- Thefts (including bicycle thefts)
- Criminal mischief (vandalism)
- Phone harassment
- Defacing property (graffiti)
- Lost property
- Suspicious circumstances
- Gas drive-offs
- To file a police report on-line, go to [www.bouldercolorado.gov/police/report](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/police/report). Follow the link to the on-line reporting form.

If you need to obtain a copy of a police report, those are available at the department for a nominal fee. You will need the case number, or a name of someone involved. Payment must be cash or check, but will be waived if you are the victim in the case.



# Property & Evidence

As part of their investigation into crimes, officers often collect evidence and take photos of the scene. The Property and Evidence section of the police department maintains this evidence until needed for analysis or court, or authorized for release or destruction.

Evidence is handled much differently from other property items taken in for safekeeping. Evidence items are handled carefully by officers, packaged and labeled according to specific procedures and tracked to maintain a "chain of custody." At any time, it can be shown who had contact with a specific piece of evidence and for what purpose.



If you have found property, please turn it in to the police department as soon as possible. Found property may, in fact, be stolen property and could become an important part of a criminal case. Your discovery may be the clue that solves a case.

If you have property that is in the custody of Property and Evidence and need to get it released, contact (303) 441-3340 to schedule an appointment for release.

In 2006, Property & Evidence took in 15,473 new pieces of evidence for 5,842 cases and completed 314 lab requests for analysis of evidence. They processed almost 17,000 latent print evaluations and made over 30,000 latent print comparisons in attempts to identify suspects.

# Working with the Community

The Boulder Police Department is committed to providing quality, responsive service in its efforts to work in partnership with the community. The Professional Standards Unit of the department reviews commendations of police employee performance and complaints about the actions of any department member.

If you have a compliment or complaint about your interactions with a department member and would like to notify the department, the following options are available:

- Contact dispatch at (303) 441-3333 and ask to speak to the watch supervisor. They can take an initial complaint and forward it for review.
- Contact the Professional Standards sergeant, Sgt. Curtis Johnson, at (303) 441-3312., or via e-mail at johnsonc@bouldercolorado.gov.
- Commendation and complaint forms are available at the Public Safety Building, 1805 33rd St. and can be turned in there as well.

Because the department values its relationship with the community, it uses such things as press releases, its Web site, and a quarterly newsletter to keep the public informed.

The department's Web site, [www.boulder-police.com](http://www.boulder-police.com), contains educational information about the department, crime prevention, statistical information and press releases.

All press releases are distributed to the media and community members can subscribe to receive them as well. Just go to the city's web site, [www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov), click on Resident on the top menu bar and then click on E-mail lists. Once there, select news from the drop down menu and complete the sign up.

To subscribe to The Spotlight, Boulder Police Department's quarterly newsletter distributed via e-mail, send an e-mail to [brooks@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:brooks@bouldercolorado.gov). The newsletter is also posted on-line at [www.boulder-police.com](http://www.boulder-police.com) under Press and Public Information on the left.

# Services

The Boulder Police Department offers registration programs for bicycles and laptop computers in an effort to prevent theft and aid in the recovery of these frequently stolen items. It's convenient, free and easy to sign up.



If you work or live in the city of Boulder, the police department can take your fingerprints for a variety of purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, employment, alcohol licensing and adoptions. The department does not fingerprint for immigration purposes.

Fingerprinting, bicycle registration and laptop registration can be done at the following locations:

- Boulder Police Department 1805 33rd St.
- University Hill Community Police Center (CPC), 1310 College Ave.
- Pearl Street CPC, 1500 Pearl St.

There is no charge for registering your bike or laptop. Just bring them to any of the locations listed above Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Fingerprinting costs \$10. Payment must be made in cash or check and you must show a valid driver's license, or passport. Fingerprinting can be done at either CPC between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. At the department's main location, fingerprinting is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Please call (303) 441-3300 with questions.

The department also provides an on-line reporting service to its citizens. This can be utilized for the victims of non-violent crime, which is non-emergency and involves an unknown suspect. Reports can be made at [www.bouldercolorado.gov/police/report](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/police/report). This system should not be utilized in crimes where a suspect entered someone's home, place of business or vehicle, or a crime that did not occur within the city of Boulder.

Because it is estimated that nearly 80% of car seats are misused, the department offers free appointments to have a certified technician inspect your safety seat installation. Child safety seats have the best chance to save lives when installed and used correctly. Contact the technicians listed below to schedule your appointment:

- Officer Sue Barcklow  
Boulder Police Department  
(303) 441-3460  
[barcklows@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:barcklows@bouldercolorado.gov)
- Linda Clark  
Colorado State Patrol –  
Broomfield Office  
(303) 469-1966  
[Linda.Clark@cdps.state.co.us](mailto:Linda.Clark@cdps.state.co.us)
- Bill Flinchbaugh  
(303) 931-3443  
[BFlinch@rm.incc.net](mailto:BFlinch@rm.incc.net)
- Donna Gallegos  
Boulder Valley School District  
(303) 447-5126  
[Donna.Galegos@bvsd.K12.co.us](mailto:Donna.Galegos@bvsd.K12.co.us)



Child passenger safety laws state that:

- Infants should ride in a rear-facing child safety seat until they are at least 1 year old and weigh at least 20 pounds.
- Children 1 to 4 years old who weigh 20 to 40 pounds should ride in a forward-facing child safety seat.
- Children who weigh over 40 pounds, or who are at least 4 but less than 6 years old should ride in a child booster seat or with a child safety belt-positioning device, unless they are at least 55" tall.
- Once a child is at least 6 years old or is at least 55" tall, he or she can sit in a regular seat but must be properly restrained with the motor vehicle's safety belt.

# Important Phone Numbers

## Boulder Police Department

Emergency	911
Non-emergency police assistance	(303) 441-3333
Administration – Chief’s Office	(303) 441-3310
Crime Stoppers	(800) 444-3776 (800) 222-TIPS (8477) <a href="http://www.crimeshurt.com">www.crimeshurt.com</a>
Detectives	(303) 441-3330
Professional Standards	(303) 441-3312
Property and Evidence	(303) 441-3340
Public Information Officer	(303) 441-3370
Records and Information Services	(303) 441-3300
Traffic complaints (ongoing, non-urgent)	(303) 441-7339

## Other numbers

Animal Control	(303) 442-4030
Boulder City Council	(303) 441-3002
Boulder County D.A.’s Office	(303) 441-3700

## Boulder County Sheriff

Emergency	911
Non-emergency service	(303) 441-4444
Administration	(303) 441-4605
Jail	(303) 441-4600
Records	(303) 441-3600

Boulder Fire Department	(303) 441-3350
Boulder Municipal Court	(303) 441-1843
Office of Emergency Management	(303) 441-3390

## Pridemark Paramedics

Emergency	911
Non-emergency dispatch	(303) 984-1911
Administration	(303) 939-8111

State road and weather conditions (303) 639-1111

