

# Neighborhood News

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | September 2019

## Quick Tip:

The strongest locks are deadbolt locks with a minimum 1" throw bolt containing a hardened, saw-resistant steel insert. Attach the strike plate to the door frame with 3" screws. For doors with locks accessible from glass, consider using a double cylinder deadbolt lock. The double cylinder deadbolt lock requires a key to be used from both sides, preventing a burglar from breaking glass in the door and turning the knob from the inside. Remember, a double cylinder deadbolt can also block your exit in an emergency so make sure the key is placed in a readily accessible area near the door, out of sight from view. Also, remember to let all the occupants of your residence know where the key/s are in the event of an emergency.



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Neighborhood Watch Program



## Burglary Prevention & Vacation Checklist

The Sheriff's Office over the past 5-6 months has experienced an increase in reported residential home burglaries. In an effort to help prevent this crime from occurring, it is important during these times Neighborhood Watch groups report suspicious activity, such as suspicious vehicles or people, to the non-emergency number at the Sheriff's Office which is 390-5555.

Keep in mind, Neighborhood Watch is founded on the principle that you and your community members know what activity is normal in your neighborhood. It is difficult for a deputy occasionally patrolling your neighborhood to be able to identify a strange person or vehicle as quickly as a resident might be able to. A successful Neighborhood Watch group should learn to recognize what activities and behaviors are normal within their neighborhood in order to observe what is abnormal.

Having a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) evaluation of your property can also prove very beneficial. This evaluation is free, and it takes about 30 minutes to accomplish. The concept of CPTED is that the environment can be manipulated to reduce the fear of and incidence of crime. Items that are evaluated is your lighting, landscape, door and window locks, security systems, and landscape to name a few. During the evaluation, you will be

provided with "Options to consider" which are fairly general in nature. An example might be the installation of a security system that will not only provide you with personal assurance of home security, but also the opportunity to save some money on your home insurance. If you are interested in this evaluation, please contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator at 520-7151 to learn more.

Develop the habit of surveying your property as you approach it. If you note evidence that someone has burglarized your home, DO NOT ENTER. Get to safety and call the police or Sheriff's Office. Should you confront a burglar, the very first rule is: GET OUT OF HIS/HER WAY!! Never get between a burglar and their exit and never try to stop them. It may cost you your life, and although your property is important to you, is not worth it in this case.

As stated above, residential burglaries are increasing and with the holiday season rapidly approaching those numbers are expected to climb higher. Additionally, many families also travel during the holiday season leaving their homes unoccupied and vulnerable to being burglarized. You must be aware of the potential risk of crime in your home in order to prevent it from occurring. Remember, the key factor in most crimes is OPPORTUNITY. IF THEY CAN'T GET AT IT, THEY CAN'T TAKE IT!!! Below is a brief vacation checklist

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of items to think about before you leave on vacation or in your daily activities. Also remember, you can complete a Vacation Check Request form to request deputies and Citizen Patrol volunteers occasionally check your residence in your absence. That form is located on the Sheriff's Office website at [www.epcsheriffsoffice.com](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) under the vacation check request tab.

## Vacation Checklist

- If you have a second car that you leave outside, arrange to have it moved occasionally. Remove the automatic garage door, if applicable.
- Arrange to have your lawn cut or snow shoveled, as required.
- Securely store your expensive or dangerous items, such as furs, jewelry, heirlooms, guns, etc.
- Encourage trusted neighbors in your Neighborhood Watch group to keep an eye on your residence and report any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office.
- Use a timer or photo electric cell that automatically turns a living room light on at dusk. Brightly illuminate all entrances, preferably with vandal-proof fixtures.
- Keep all shrubbery trimmed near your doors and windows. Don't provide concealment or climbing platforms for burglars.
- Leave a radio on with the volume turned low when leaving home, even for short periods.
- If installed, have your alarm system functionally checked before your departure.
- Set thermostats or air conditioners according to weather conditions.
- Make sure you have documented serial numbers on household and other important items.
- Avoid publicity about your upcoming trip to include on social media.
- Leave an itinerary with the person watching your house in the event you need to be notified of an emergency.
- Do not pack your car the night before your departure unless it is in a secured garage.
- Secure all ladders, ropes, or tools that could help a burglar enter your home.
- Lastly, check to make sure all doors, windows, and garage are locked, and all necessary keys are left with the person watching your home, if applicable.

*Despite precautions, if intruders are determined to enter and burglarize your home, they can probably do so. However, burglars usually seek the easiest target and you can take the necessary steps to make your house less vulnerable. Criminals do not like to get caught so make it difficult for them in their decision-making process!!*

## Sheriff's Office Marijuana Statistics

In a recent press release, the Sheriff's Office released the marijuana statistics through June 2019. The numbers illustrated below reflect both the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County combined.

In 2017, Sheriff Bill Elder laid out illegal marijuana enforcement, addressing mental health in the community and reducing the average daily jail population as his top priorities for the next four years of his administration. The Sheriff's Office will be releasing monthly statistics on the work that is being done to stop the diversion of legal marijuana to the illegal marijuana market.

### Illegal and Black-Market Marijuana Enforcement statistics:

• Search Warrants:	36	• Processed Marijuana Seized:	162 lbs.
• Knock & Talks:	65	• Cash Seized:	\$82,000
• Grows Visited:	101	• Guns Seized:	7
• Plants Seized:	3,934	• Arrests:	13

## National Night Out THANK YOU!

On a side note, I want to personally thank all the communities that participated in the 36th Annual National Night Out on August 6th. This year's National Night Out was a huge success. The Sheriff's Office attended 13 different events throughout El Paso County, and we are extremely excited to have had a representative from the Sheriff's Office at each event. As an agency, we learned of issues that affecting your communities and important topics that need to be addressed. We also enjoyed the opportunity to meet our Neighborhood Watch partners and enjoy some great conversations. Our goal for 2020 is to increase the number of events and continue to have deputies and Staff Officers attending each event. Please remember that National Night Out occurs every year on the first Tuesday of August so please put next year's date on your calendars. Thank you once again for making this year's event one of the best to date!



## 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 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.

## Crime Prevention Tips

As stated in previous newsletters, please remember to keep your garage doors down when you are away from your residence. Most residential burglaries are opportunistic crime. A criminal doesn't have to use much effort to walk into open garages and possibly into your residence. Lock the man doors that go from garage into your residence during evening hours. Also remember to remove your automatic garage door opener remote, or at minimum, hide the remote somewhere in the vehicle where it can not be seen from the outside. The best practice is to remove the remote if the vehicle is going to be left outside during odd hours. The Sheriff's Office is still experiencing a large amount of burglaries involving open garage doors, to include occurrences during daylight hours.

Car burglaries (CTA) can be prevented by locking your car doors when you are away from your vehicle. Also, remember to take your valuables out of your car. Before you get to your destination, pull over and put your valuables in the trunk. Don't do this at your destination as criminals will watch for this and enter your vehicle and open the trunk to get those items. Like garage burglaries, the Sheriff's Office is still experiencing an increased number of cases regarding car burglaries with unlocked car doors. PLEASE make sure your vehicle is locked and all valuables are removed from inside the vehicle, if possible. Leave your porch and patio lights on during evening hours. Remember, a criminal doesn't want to get caught. By lighting up your residence and neighborhood, that might deter a burglar from coming to your neighborhood and make him or her choose to go to another neighborhood that is not well lit. The low energy LED exteriors lights are great bulbs and last a long time.

Place a security system sign in your front yard. Make sure it is visible for people to see from the street or as they approach. Have the sign lit with a cheap solar light for evening hours. Also, 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.

Schedule the Crime Prevention Coordinator to come to your residence and conduct a CPTED evaluation (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This evaluation takes about 30 minutes and items looked at are lights, locks, landscape, and security areas. This evaluation will provide you with **"options to consider"** to make your residence more secure and there is no charge for the evaluation. A CPTED evaluation is a free service offered to home residents and businesses by the Sheriff's Office.

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

## 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](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) and under Services select Vacation Check Request Form.

## 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](http://www.epcsheriffsoffice.com) and under Community select Speakers Bureau and submit the Speaker Request.



## 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:

**719-520-7151**

# Crimes in Your Neighborhood: Highlights From *July & August*

## District 1

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	2
Burglaries	1
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	9
Thefts	10
Criminal Mischief	6

## District 2

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	0
Burglaries	1
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	0
Thefts	8
Criminal Mischief	6

## District 3

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	18
Burglaries	5
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	13
Thefts	34
Criminal Mischief	20

## District 4

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	2
Burglaries	4
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	2
Thefts	25
Criminal Mischief	20

## District 5

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	8
Burglaries	10
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	15
Thefts	29
Criminal Mischief	13

## District 6

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	4
Burglaries	6
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	1
Thefts	17
Criminal Mischief	10

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

## District 7

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	5
Burglaries	3
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	4
Thefts	9
Criminal Mischief	9

## District 8

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	2
Burglaries	0
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	6
Thefts	3
Criminal Mischief	4

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

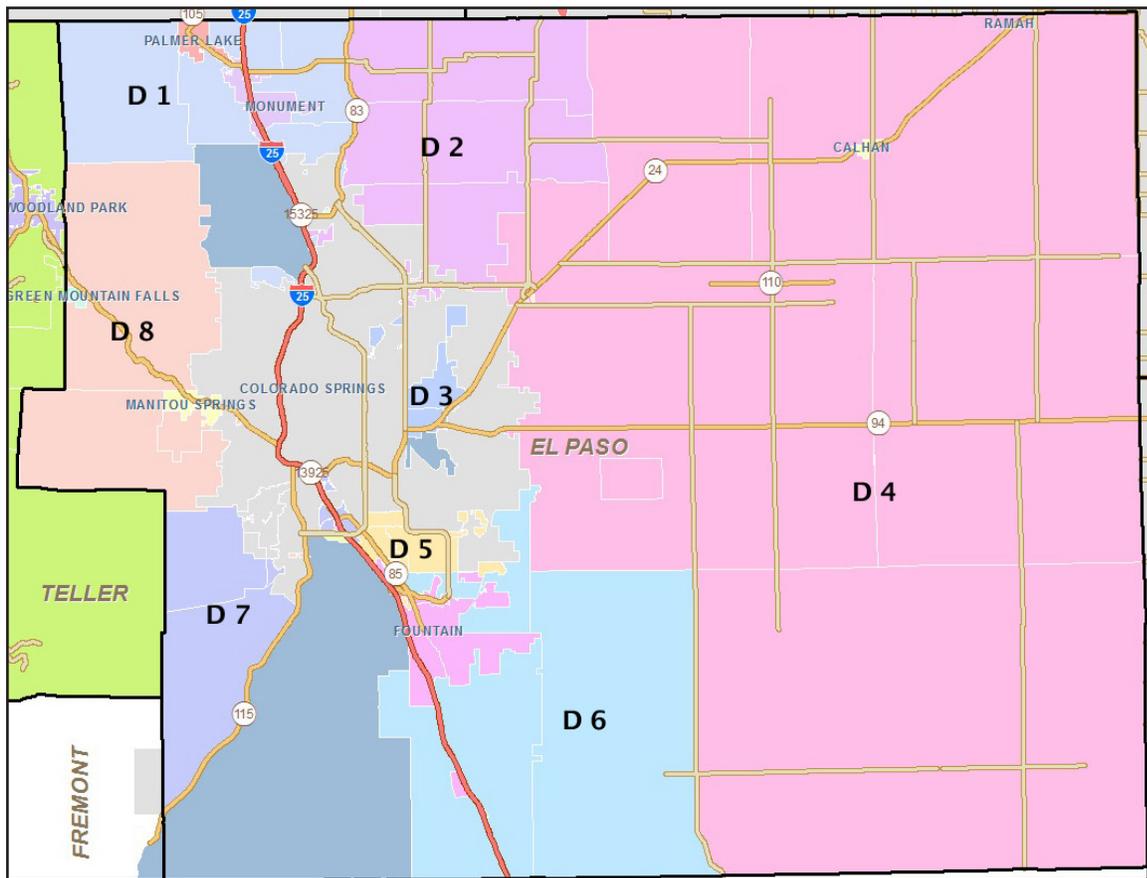
**District 4**—Woodmen Hills, Falcon, areas east of Meridian Road

**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" of what the Sheriff's Office is experiencing across El Paso County. The illustrated numbers show the number of case reports, not calls for service, the Sheriff's Office has taken. If you are interested in individual neighborhoods or areas, please contact Brent Ambuehl, El Paso County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Coordinator at (719) 520-7151 or email at [brentambuehl@elpasoco.com](mailto:brentambuehl@elpasoco.com) for more specific information.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Guns vs Hoses**

Saturday, September 7, 2019

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Switchback Stadium, 6303 Barnes Road, Colorado Springs

### **Coffee with a Cop**

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Nana's Kitchen, 11882 Stapleton Drive, Peyton

### **Coffee with a Cop**

Saturday, December 21, 2019

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Starbucks, 5070 North Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs

### **Coffee With a Cop**

Saturday, December 27, 2019

9:00am - 11:00am

Starbucks, 5070 N. Nevada Ave.

*Join Sheriff Elder, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, local and State law enforcement officers for an informal and friendly conversation. This is a great time to speak with these folks on issues or concerns that might be on your mind.*