

Neighborhood News

March/April 2011



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Watch for details about **National Night Out** in our next newsletter. Reserve the date - **Tuesday night August 2nd, 2011.**



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What to Teach Kids About Strangers

Information about the differences between strangers kids should look out for and strangers kids can trust

Kids see strangers every day in stores, in the park, and in their neighborhoods. Most of these strangers are nice, normal people, but a few may not be. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about strangers and suspicious behavior, and by taking a few precautions of their own.

Who is a stranger?

A stranger is anyone that your family doesn't know well. It's common for children to think that "bad strangers" look scary, like the villains in cartoons. This is not only untrue, but it's dangerous for children to think this way. Pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-pretty ones. When you talk to your children about strangers, explain that no one can tell if strangers are nice or not nice just by looking at them and that they should be careful around all strangers.

But don't make it seem like all strangers are bad. If children need help--whether they're lost, being threatened by a bully, or being followed

by a stranger--the safest thing for them to do in many cases is to ask a stranger for help. You can make this easier for them by showing them which strangers are okay to trust.

Who are safe strangers?

Safe strangers are people children can ask for help when they need it. Police officers and firefighters are two examples of very recognizable safe strangers. Teachers, principals, and librarians are adults children can trust too, and they are easy to recognize when they're at work. But make sure that you emphasize that whenever possible, children should go to a public place to ask for help.

You can help your children recognize safe strangers by pointing them out when you're out in your town. Also show your children places they can go if they need help, such as local stores and restaurants and the homes of family friends in your neighborhood.

Recognizing and Handling Dangerous Situations

Perhaps the most important way parents can protect their children is to teach them to be

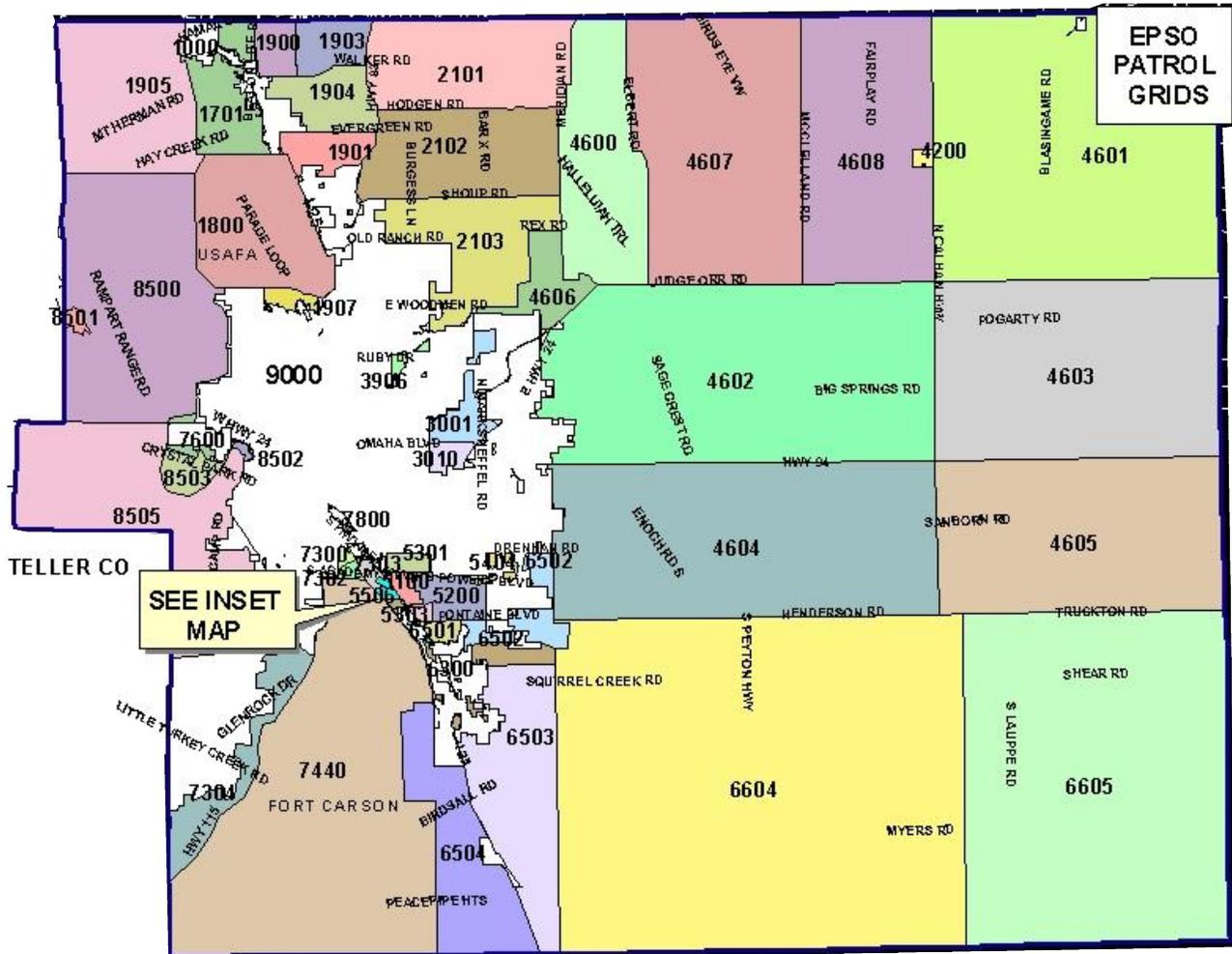
wary of potentially dangerous situations – this will help them when dealing with strangers as well as with known adults who may not have good intentions. Help children recognize the warning signs of suspicious behavior, such as when an adult asks them to disobey their parents or do something without permission, asks them to keep a secret, asks children for help, or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way. Also tell your children that an adult should never ask a child for help, and if one does ask for their help, teach them to find a trusted adult right away to tell what happened.

You should also talk to your children about how they should handle dangerous situations. One way is to teach them "No, Go, Yell, Tell." If in a dangerous situations, kids should say no, run away, yell as loud as they can, and tell a trusted adult what happened right away. Make sure that your children know that it is okay to say no to an adult in a dangerous situation and to yell to keep themselves safe, even if they are indoors. It's good to practice this in different situations so that your children will feel confident in knowing know what to do.

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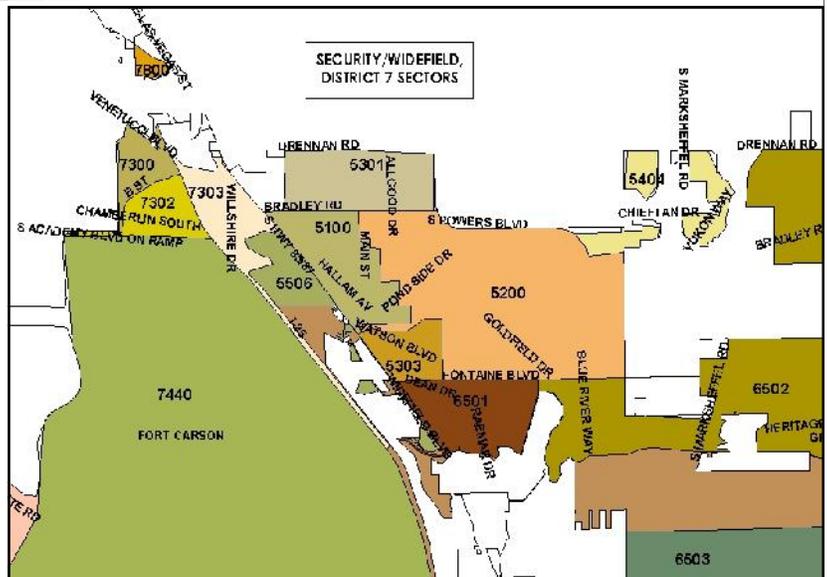
El Paso County Patrol Districts & Grids

(The first digit of the number shown on the map is the District number. For example, the area marked as "4602" is within District 4.)



El Paso County Sheriff's Office - Patrol Area Breakdown:

- District 1** - Monument, Woodmoor, Gleneagle, Kings Deer, Club Villas, east to Hwy 83
- District 2** - Black Forest, Wissler Ranch, Hawk Ridge, from Hwy 83 east to Meridian Rd
- District 3** - Cimarron Hills, Constitution Hills, Claremont Ranch, Gem streets off Austin Bluffs
- District 4** - Woodmen Hills, Falcon, Peyton, Elliott, east of Meridian Road
- District 5** - Security, Fountain Valley, Colorado Centre, north of Hwy 83/Henderson/Truckton
- District 6** - Widefield and Little Ranches area, south of Fontaine/Henderson/Truckton, Hanover
- District 7** - Stratmoor Valley, Stratmoor Hills, B Street, Highway 115
- District 8** - West Colorado Avenue and Ute Pass



Crime in Your Neighborhood: Highlights From January/February 2011

District 1: Three residential burglaries - one attempted, one by an unknown party, and one by a family member. No robberies. One criminal mischief - a car driven across someone's front yard leaving tire marks. One stolen work truck - **unlocked w/keys inside**. The truck was recovered in Manitou a day later w/plates missing. Four instances of vehicles being broken into and property stolen from the vehicle.

District 2: Four residential burglaries - one through an unsecured ground level window, one to an unoccupied home, and in the remaining two, articles were taken from unsecured areas on the properties - carport or shed. No robberies. Two criminal mischief - both involving tampering with entry doors. Three cases of vehicle break-ins - in two, **the vehicles were unlocked**, the other is unknown if the vehicle was locked or not. There was one instance of criminal trespass.

District 3: Twenty residential burglaries - several of which were houses under construction on Reed Grass Way. Sixteen cases of residential criminal mischief - including mailbox bashings on Chantilly, Charlottesville & Richmond. Nine aggravated motor vehicle thefts: **one was parked unlocked in the street with the keys in the drivers door handle or center console**.

District 4: Twenty-three residential burglaries - eight were not forced entry. No robberies. Nine cases of criminal mischief not related to domestic disturbances. Six were damage to mailboxes—three on N Ellicott Hwy and three in Forest Green. There were eight motor vehicle thefts, five from unoccupied properties. On New Year's Day, three juveniles were arrested on several counts of criminal trespass, burglary and criminal mischief which occurred the night before in the Condor/Sunset Trail/Sunny Slope area of Falcon.

District 5: Seventeen residential burglaries - eleven of which were non-forced entry. Of these, at least **four were through unlocked doors or windows**. The others were by people known to the property owner. Three sheds on Brundidge Ct were broken into. Twenty cases of criminal mischief - seven of which were vandalism of vehicles. There were six cases of aggravated motor vehicle theft - **two of the vehicles had the keys left in them**; the other four were locked or inoperable. Twenty-one cases of vehicles broken into - several of them were in church parking lots and **had valuables in plain sight**.

District 6: Six residential burglaries - 3 forced entry, 4 not. No robberies. Twenty-six cases of criminal mischief including a rash of mailbox bashings occurred on 1/9 and a second group on 2/11. Four cases of motor vehicle theft - two of which were by parties known to the vehicle owner. Seven instances of vehicles being broken into - five of which occurred off of Fontaine on 1/13. Three cases of criminal trespass - all involved parties known to the reporting party.

District 7: Sixteen residential burglaries - Seven of these were forced entry. Four of the non-forced entry were of copper piping from within the crawlspace under a rental or vacant house. No robberies. Eleven cases of criminal mischief - four were vandalism of vehicles. One theft of a vehicle. Eight cases of theft from vehicles. Two cases of criminal trespass.

District 8: One burglary - business. No robberies. One vandalism of a truck on Old Stage Rd. One stolen vehicle recovery at Red Rocks Canyon Open Space. One theft from a vehicle on Gold Camp Rd. One instance of criminal trespass. Twenty-six cases of criminal mischief - four vandalism to vehicles on 1/13.

Just a reminder - always lock your vehicle and take the keys. And do not leave valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. The bad guys are looking for easy targets - don't be one!



Crime Prevention Safety Tips



1. Identify who is at your door before opening it. Install peepholes in a position that all family members can use them if you don't already have them. Teach children to use them, and to also check with an adult before opening the door.
2. Don't ever let strangers in your home, to include solicitors.

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Here are a few possible scenarios:

- A nice-looking stranger approaches your child in the park and asks for help finding the stranger's lost dog.
- A woman who lives in your neighborhood but that the child has never spoken to invites your child into her house for a snack.
- A stranger asks if your child wants a ride home from school.
- Your child thinks he or she is being followed.
- An adult your child knows says or does something that makes him or her feel bad or uncomfortable.
- While your child is walking home from a friend's house, a car pulls over and a stranger asks for directions.

What Else Parents Can Do

In addition to teaching children how to recognize and handle dangerous situations and strangers, there are a few more things parents can do to help their children stay safe and avoid dangerous situations.

- **Know where your children are at all times.** Make it a rule that your children must ask permission or check in with you before going anywhere. Give your children your work and cell phone numbers so they can reach you at all times.
- **Point out safe places.** Show your children safe places to play, safe roads and paths to take, and safe places to go if there's trouble.
- **Teach children to trust their instincts.** Explain that if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable, they should get away as fast as they can and tell an adult. Tell them that sometimes adults they know may make them feel uncomfortable, and they should still get away as fast as possible and tell another adult what happened. Reassure children that you will help them when they need it.
- **Teach your children to be assertive.** Make sure they know that it's okay to say no to an adult and to run away from adults in dangerous situations.

Encourage your children to play with others. There's safety in numbers!

~ Article courtesy of NCPC ~

Protect Yourself From Violent Crime

A list of tips for adults on staying safe

- Don't walk or jog early in the morning or late at night when the streets are deserted.
- When out at night, try to have a friend walk with you.
- Carry only the money you'll need on a particular day.
- Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets such as pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If the person continues to follow you, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Don't be afraid to yell for help.
- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.

- Make sure you have your key out as you approach your door.
 - Always lock your car, even if it's in your own driveway; never leave your motor running.
 - Do everything you can to keep a stranger from getting into your car or to keep a stranger from forcing you into his or her car.
 - If a dating partner has abused you, do not meet him or her alone. Do not let him or her in your home or car when you are alone.
 - If you are a battered spouse, call the police or sheriff immediately. Assault is a crime, whether committed by a stranger or your spouse or any other family member. If you believe that you and your children are in danger, call a crisis hotline or a health center (the police can also make a referral) and leave immediately.
 - If someone tries to rob you, give up your property—don't give up your life.
- If you are robbed or assaulted, report the crime to the police or sheriff. Try to describe the attacker accurately.

Your actions can help prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

~ Article courtesy of NCPC ~



IN EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1

EPSO Dispatch (non-emergent crime reporting): 390-5555

EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): 520-7111 or <http://shr.elpasoco.com> — click on the icon "Online Reporting Cop-Logic"

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