



# Crime Prevention Tips

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
13101 E. Broncos Parkway, Centennial, CO 80112  
J. Grayson Robinson, SHERIFF

Crime  
Prevention  
Section

Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,  
professionalism and community spirit.

## Unmarked Police Cars

Recently, law enforcement agencies along the Front Range have received reports of police impersonators attempting to make traffic stops using unmarked cars with flashing lights. This has created a legitimate concern for both citizens and law enforcement agencies. Citizens are concerned that they may be stopped by a person with criminal intent, while law enforcement officers are concerned that citizens may create a dangerous situation by eluding a legitimate law enforcement officer contact.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office uses unmarked vehicles as part of our public safety efforts. The unmarked vehicles have ample emergency lighting to include red, white and blue strobe lights in the grill, windshield and rear deck. Remember, deputies will usually be in full uniform but, in rare instances, may be wearing plainclothes. All deputies will have proper credentials displayed and are required to carry business cards.

The following recommendations are presented to motorists if you are in doubt as to the validity of a traffic stop:

- Slow down. Signal your compliance by slowing down and activating your hazard lights. If it is a legitimate traffic stop, you do not want to appear to be eluding a real officer.
- If an unmarked police car signals you to pull over, especially at night, and you are not sure the person is a peace officer, put on your four-way (hazard) flashers and dome light, and slowly drive to the closest well-lit public area.
- If you are uncertain about the stop and have a cell phone, dial 911 and ask for assistance. It is important for you to know your location when you place the phone call. The dispatcher will not be able to tell you why you are being stopped, but could verify the agency making the stop. Again, it is important for you to know your location at the time of the stop.
- Keep your doors locked and open your window partially. Pay attention to the officer's uniform and insignias. Make sure that the badge and patches signify a law enforcement agency and don't say "security" or signify a private company.
- It is rare for plainclothes police officers to make traffic stops. If you are uncertain about the stop, request a marked car and uniformed officer respond to the location of the stop.
- Officers in uniform will have a nameplate easily visible on their shirts. You may also ask to see a plainclothes officer's identification or be provided with his/her business card.
- Express your concerns to the officer. If you convey your concerns, the officer will better understand your actions and often times will voluntarily provide you with a business card or other proof of employment.

If you have any questions, call or e-mail Deputy Amir Stephen at (720) 874-3752 [astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us).