

# Community Newsletter

**Sheriff's Office**

541-440-4450



**Dispatch  
Non-Emergency**

541-440-4471

**Emergency**

9-1-1

**Community Outreach**

Andrea Zielinski  
541-440-4486

**Records Division**

541-440-4463

**Civil Processing**

541-440-4468

**Patrol Division**

541-440-4457

**Investigations**

541-440-4458

**Drug Activity Tip Line**

541-440-4474

**Search and Rescue**

541-440-4448

**Marine Patrol**

541-440-4447

**Douglas County Jail**

541-440-4440

**Animal Control**

541-440-4327

**Concealed Handgun**

**Licensing**

541-957-2021



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## Reverse 911



We all know that 911 is the number to call in the United States to get help in an emergency. A 911 call goes to the emergency

dispatch center closest to the caller, and trained dispatchers send police, firefighters or paramedics to the caller's location.

The shift to mobile phones and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) lines has significantly changed emergency call-taking. VoIP are "telephone" communications transmitted over the Internet. If you have a "bundled" Internet/phone/TV service, you probably have a VoIP line.

Today in Douglas County, many of the incoming calls come from mobile phones and VoIP lines. Calls from traditional land lines have always provided dispatchers with the information about the location of the caller. Calls from mobile phones and VoIP phones provide much less information.

When you call 911 from a mobile or VoIP phone, the call-taker will usually only know your phone company and phone number. The call-taker may know the general area you're calling from, but the area could be several square miles. You'll have to provide specific information so that the call-taker can send help to the right place. If you're in a building, try to provide the street address. If you're on a roadway, try to

provide the cross streets, mile marker information or a well-known landmark. We can't help you if we can't find you!

In Douglas County, the Citizen Emergency Notification System (sometimes called "reverse 911") allows us to call citizens to warn them of danger. With it we can simultaneously call multiple phones within an area that we designate, to warn residents of emergency evacuations, natural disasters, tsunami warnings, hazardous material leaks, missing person alerts, search and rescue operations, neighborhood emergency incidents, or dangerous suspects. Within moments, calls reach the affected community to deliver warnings and critical safety instructions.

The Citizen Emergency Notification System calls numbers from two databases. The first one is the county's 911 database; it includes all listed and unlisted land lines. If you have a land lines, it is automatically included in this database.

The second is a newer database of mobile phone and VoIP numbers whose owners have opted in to receive the calls. If you don't have a traditional land line phone, or would like to receive a cell phone call in addition to the call on your land line phone, consider registering for this free service. To register, visit our Web site: [www.dcsso.com](http://www.dcsso.com). You will receive a confirming email message to the address entered once you have successfully registered with Citizen Emergency Notification System.

## Let Them Through, It Could Be You!



In an emergency, minutes can mean the difference between life and death, and critical seconds can be lost if

drivers don't make way for emergency vehicles.

Take sirens seriously — make way for an ambulance, fire truck or police vehicle. Someday you may be the one calling for help, or the life on the line might be a friend, neighbor or someone you love.

You can do some simple things to help emergency personnel reach a person in need. Use the letters **S.I.R.E.N.** to remember the right way to yield to an emergency vehicle.

### **S: Stay Alert**

Drive defensively, keep the noise level down in your car and look for more than one emergency vehicle approaching when you hear a siren.

### **I: Investigate**

Check your rear-view mirror, scan in front and on both sides of your vehicle, try to estimate the closing speed of the emergency vehicle and plan your next move.

### **R: React**

React quickly, but calmly and scan in all directions before pulling over. Always use a turn signal when exiting the roadway and don't slam on the brakes or pull over suddenly. Yield the right-of-way by pulling as far to the right side of the roadway as possible, clear of intersections, and come to a complete stop.

### **E: Enter**

Before re-entering the road, make a visual sweep in all directions, turn on your signal, and gradually merge back into traffic. Be cautious of other emergency vehicles approaching.

### **N: Never**

Don't stop at a place that doesn't have enough room to pull over safely. Stay at least 500 feet behind any moving emergency vehicle displaying flashing warning lights and sounding a siren. Never pass a

moving emergency vehicle displaying flashing warning lights unless directed to do so by the emergency vehicle driver or a law enforcement officer.

**At Intersections** - Be alert for pedestrians who may be in the crosswalk or at the edge of the roadway. They might be looking for the emergency vehicle too and not be aware of your efforts to yield properly.

**On the Highway** - Always use your signal so that other drivers know how you intend to exit the road and look for other cars that may have to move across lanes of traffic to yield. Pull as far off the highway as safely possible and gradually brake to avoid losing control in loose gravel on the shoulder.

**As Pedestrians** - Always check for turning vehicles before you step into the street because drivers may not see you. Be sure to stop at the curb, look left-right-left before crossing the street, and keep looking for vehicles.

Do not cross in front of an emergency vehicle which may be stopped at a busy intersection, wait for the vehicle to pass.

**As Bicyclists** - Always wear a helmet on every ride and equip your bicycle with reflectors on the front and rear. Bicyclists must obey traffic laws that apply to motor vehicles. Ride single file and on the right side of the road with traffic.

When an emergency vehicle is approaching - pull as far to the right as possible. Do not cross in front of an emergency vehicle which may be stopped at a busy intersection, wait for the vehicle to pass.

Not every emergency medical response requires lights and sirens, but next time you encounter such a situation, yield immediately so that the emergency personnel can reach the person who is waiting for help to arrive.

Remember, it's important to let them through...next time, it could be you.



## How to Detect Counterfeit Money

We are seeing an increase in the amount of counterfeit money that is being passed around Douglas County. Why should you be concerned about counterfeit money? If you unknowingly accept a counterfeit bill and you take it to your bank and they scan it, you will lose the face value of that money. You may even be investigated for passing counterfeit money.

How can you tell if it is counterfeit money? The feel will usually alert you to the fact that something is wrong with the bill. Take a real good look at any bill that feels different. If it looks suspicious, compare it with a genuine one. In a genuine bill, the paper is very high quality rag paper with small red and blue threads throughout. It has a distinctive texture and color. In a counterfeit, paper may feel different or may be a different white than genuine paper.

Red and blue lines may be drawn to imitate the fibers. Counterfeit bills are typically smooth, much like a photograph which no raised ink can be felt. The color may be faded because counterfeits lose their color easily.

The face should appear life-like and stand out sharply from the fine screen background of regular, unbroken lines. Lines in the face, hair, and clothing are distinct. In counterfeit bills, the lines are blurred and may blend into the background, which itself may be too light or dark. Face and eyes may appear lifeless.

Looking at the seal, saw tooth points are sharp and evenly spaced. In a counterfeit, saw tooth points may be broken, blunt, or uneven. Seal may also be unclear.

The serial number figures should be sharp and evenly spaced. On Federal Reserve Notes, the prefix letter agrees with the District letter in the seal. In a counterfeit, poor impression may make the numbers too light or dark, or may be blurred. May also be unevenly spaced or out-of-line.

Next look at the border. The scroll work has fine crisscrossing lines which are sharp and unbroken. In a counterfeit lines may be blurred and are often broken.

To protect yourself, you can put up signs at your business saying you do not accept \$100 dollar bills (not recommended as most people shop after pay day and are more likely to have large bills).

You can buy a counterfeit currency detection pen, which is easy to use and requires no training. A clerk at a cash register uses the detector pen to put a small mark on the bill. If the bill is counterfeit and the paper is wood-based, the iodine in the pen solution will react with the starch and leave a dark brown or black mark. If the bill is authentic and the paper is fiber-based, there won't be any starch and the pen will not leave a mark. A detector pen costs between 5 -10 dollars and can screen up to 3,000 bills. Amber color means bill is good, black means bill is suspect.

Some US counterfeiters bleach small denominations and print more valuable bills on the resulting blank paper to evade this test, although changes to the currency since 2004 have made this method easier to detect. This is one reason that many currencies use different sized notes for different denominations.

If you receive a counterfeit do not return it to the passer. Delay the passer if possible. Observe the passer's description, as well as that of any companions, and the license plate numbers of any vehicles used.

Contact your local police department or United States Secret Service field office. These numbers can be found on the inside front page of your local telephone directory.

Write your initials and the date in the white border areas of the suspect currency. Limit the handling of the currency and carefully place it in a protective covering, such as an envelope.

Surrender the currency only to a properly identified police officer or a [U.S. Secret Service](#) special agent.

Don't be tempted to knowingly pass the bill on to someone else or you may also be prosecuted. Counterfeit passers can receive up to five years in prison and/or a \$10,000.00 fine.

