

Community Partnership Connection



Sheriff's Office Celebrates Sesquicentennial! 150 Years of Proud Service to our Community



Washoe County Sheriff's Office Celebrates 150 Years

Back: Sheriff Mike Haley and Assistant Sheriff Lisa Haney Front left to right: Undersheriff Todd Vinger and Assistant Sheriff Marshall Emerson.

"Although we are celebrating our past, the focus will be on our future"

Although its roots can be traced all the way back to William the Conqueror, the Office of the Sheriff was established in the United States in the 1630's, courtesy of the English colonists who settled in Virginia and is the oldest office under the system of common law in the United States.

Two centuries later, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office was founded in 1861, with a long and colorful history from the Old and Wild West (when Sheriff Charles C. Smith relied solely on slim resources and his six-shooter) to the progressive law enforcement agency that exists today.

Gone are the days of horse stealing, cattle rustling and train robberies. As the American Old West passed into history, a new system of law enforcement took hold.

Today's Washoe County Sheriff's Office is an innovative, dedicated, community-oriented law enforcement agency that enforces the law, safeguards the courts and operates the only adult detention facility in Washoe County.

Despite the span of time, the role of the Washoe County Sheriff remains the same...a commitment to serving the residents of Washoe County, consistently earning the public's confidence by providing a safe and secure community, using the highest quality of law enforcement, detention and support services possible within the resources entrusted to us.

Alert ID Provides Everyday Protection for Family and Neighborhood



The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the online neighborhood watch program Alert ID to launch an innovative on-line tool that empowers residents with the information that can help protect their neighborhoods and their families.

"My Neighborhoods" is the latest component of this successful public-private partnership, using the newest online technology to create instant, two-way communications between citizens and public safety authorities. Through "My Neighborhoods," residents have free and immediate access to information on crime, terrorism or natural disasters that can threaten the safety of our families and community. "Alert ID is a force multiplier," Sheriff Michael Haley said. "Engaging the public in public safety efforts dramatically increases our effectiveness in preventing and mitigating all levels of crime." By using computer-aided dispatch information, Alert ID enables Washoe County residents to log onto a computer program which lists select criminal activity and crime reports in their neighborhood. They can also receive emails and texts notifying them of a burglary, attempted abduction and other crimes. By using the unique AlertID system, residents are constantly connected to neighbors, local police and fire departments, as well as federal and state agencies to exchange critical information that can help keep their families and neighborhoods safe, whether the threat is national, local, or personal such as a missing child. Washoe County residents are the first in the nation to take part in this free neighborhood on-line service, that is expect to expand to the rest of the nation in coming months. Go to alertid.com for more information or to enroll.

"Information is power: empowering the public is what public safety is all about"

- Sheriff Mike Haley



Connect to Your Family

Instant text and email for emergencies

Exchange critical information that can help keep your family and community safe, whether the threat is national, local, or personal such as a missing child.



Connect to Your Neighbors

Keep your neighborhood safe

Using the unique AlertID system, you are constantly connected to neighbors, local police and fire departments to your keep neighborhood safe.



Connect to Local Police

Provide immediate information on danger

Provide immediate information on crime, terrorism or natural disasters that can threaten the safety of your family and community.



Instant Danger Notifications

Real-time updates on threats to your family

This is the first system of its kind. It helps you protect your neighborhood by connecting you with your neighbors and with the local authorities. Instant threat alerts are available through text and email.



Live Crime Map Near You

See crime in your neighborhood

An interactive crime map shows you potential threats to your family, your schools, and the community at large.



Share Critical Information

Know if there is danger to your family

AlertID uses the newest online technology to create instant, two-way communication between citizens and federal, state, and local authorities to provide immediate information on crime, terrorism or natural disasters.



Spotlight on...

Community Emergency Response Teams: You Can't Predict, But You Can Prepare!

Disasters usually occur quickly and without warning. There is nothing we can do to prevent disasters, but we can put ourselves in the best position to cope with being as prepared as possible.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program can help. The CERT program is part of the Washoe County Citizen Corps, administered through the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

The CERT program educates participants about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact specific neighborhoods and trains residents in basic disaster response skills. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT graduates can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT graduates also are encouraged to take a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The CERT course is taught by a trained team of subject matter experts who have completed a state approved or national CERT Train-the-Trainer course. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, fire safety and suppression, emergency medical operations, light search and rescue operations, disaster psychology, terrorism awareness, incident command and documentation, and requires only 24 hours of training.

Participation in this course is free and open to the public. To learn more, call the Citizen Corps office at 325-6928 or visit www.wcsovolunteer.org.

The next session will be held *Fridays March 4 & 11 from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm and Saturdays March 5 & 12 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.*

Reserve Deputies Save County over \$280K

Founded in the early 1970's, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Reserve Program is an outstanding example of quality volunteerism. Twenty seven (27) Reserve Deputies work side by side with full-time Patrol personnel and perform the same function as Patrol Deputies. In 2010, Reserve Deputies have volunteered more than 5,600 hours of service to Washoe County. This highly trained reserve force is comprised of dedicated men and women, many who work full-time in the private sector, who exemplify the spirit of community policing.

Photo below of Reserve Academy graduates 12/15/10



Reserve Deputy Sheriff Program Benefits from Community Partnership

In a show of unity and partnership between the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), four REMSA employees have participated and graduated from the Sheriff's Academy on Dec. 15, 2010. The four are currently taking part in front desk and field training before they officially become volunteer reserve deputies while remaining full-time medical professionals at REMSA.

The four REMSA employees and recent Sheriff Academy graduates include Brian Taylor, Steve Kopp, Alan Dobrowolski and Chris Chang who have worked or currently work with the Washoe County SWAT team as Tactical Emergency Medical Support operators. They joined the Sheriff's Office to gain more knowledge of Law Enforcement while giving back to the community by becoming volunteer reserve deputies. "We all have a tremendous amount of respect for our law enforcement brothers and sisters," said Taylor. "We see how hard the Deputies work to combat crime and how much more difficult it will become as budget cuts are implemented. We are not the type to just sit around and watch; we wanted to do something about it. We are only four members of an extremely dedicated group of reserve deputies who volunteer their time to serve side by side with the deputies of this office." REMSA's participation in the academy is just a sample of how well the two public safety organizations work well together to make our Washoe County community a better and safer place to live for its residents.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office-Community Relations

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*Dedicated Service in
Partnership with our
Community*

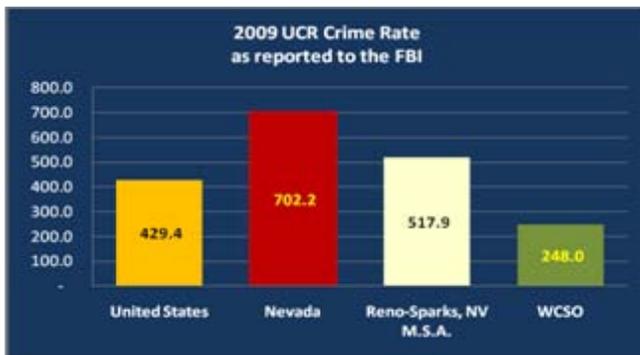
Protect Yourself from Identity Theft: Minimize Your Risk (Part 1 of a 3 Part Series)

We frequently are asked what actions people can take to protect themselves against identity theft. To help minimize your risk or minimize damage if a problem develops, you can do the following to make it more difficult for identity thieves to access your personal information.

1. **Protect your social security number: don't carry your social security card in your wallet and only write or give out when absolutely necessary. Never give out your social security number over the phone.**
2. Treat your trash and mail carefully: thieves pick through trash to capture personal information. Shred personal information whenever possible.
3. **Don't let your credit card out of your line of sight. A card can be duplicated within seconds without your knowledge.**
4. Be on guard when using the internet: use security on your computer and use only secure sites you know are safe before offering personal information.
5. **Verify a source before sharing information: don't give out personal information over the phone, through mail, or the internet unless you are sure they are a safe source.**
6. Select intricate passwords: place passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. Avoid using information like your mother's maiden name, your birth date or last four digits of your social security number.
7. **Safeguard your purse or wallet: protect your purse and wallet at all times. Carry only credit cards that you actually need.**
8. Store information in secure locations: keep personal information in secure places at home. Ask for information security procedures in your workplace or at businesses, doctors, or institutions that collect your personally identifying information. Find out if your information will be shared.

Washoe County Crime Rates

Washoe County citizens frequently ask for information pertaining to the crime rate in Washoe County. The underlying concern is "how safe is this community for my family"? What is the crime rate in Washoe County? The chart below is from the 2009 FBI Uniform Crime Reports, which was released in October 2010. M. S. A. stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes the cities of Reno and Sparks, along with the unincorporated areas of Washoe and Storey counties, the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Washoe County School District. WCSO includes only the areas in unincorporated Washoe County primarily serviced by the Sheriff's Office. The F.B.I. reports that crime in the nation for 2010 is down 6.2 percent. Statistics maintained by the WCSO indicate that Part I crime in the unincorporated areas of Washoe County for the period January 2010 through June 2010 is down 22.88 percent.



For information about criminal activity in specific neighborhoods in Reno and in the unincorporated areas of Washoe County, citizens can go to <http://www.crimereports.com/#>. This interactive tool allows the citizen to enter their address and select crime types and time period. The map will populate the surrounding area with the selected crimes for the time period designated. Citizens of Sparks can go to <http://portal.cityofsparks.us/SparksPD/>. This is also an interactive map that allows citizens to see selected calls for service and Registered Sex Offenders by neighborhoods. A third interactive site is <http://www.alertid.com/>. Citizens can enroll in the program and see criminal activities by area.