



PRESS RELEASE

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JOHN B. COOKE
SHERIFF

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COUNTY CRIME DOWN - 2009 CRIME STATS

GREELEY, Colo. – Sheriff John Cooke announced today that the major Crime Rate in Weld County has dropped for a fifth consecutive year.

The preliminary statistics for the eight reported Major Crimes, which include murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, arson, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft, dropped 4.2% from 2008 to 2009. The total number of Major Crimes has dropped from a high of 1,597 in 2005 to 992 in 2009, a reduction of 38%.

The “Crime Rate”, a measure based on the number of crimes and population, has also shown a dramatic decline. From 2008 to 2009 the Crime Rate in Weld County decreased 8.2%, based on a US Census’ population estimate of 59,760. In 2005 the service population of the Weld County Sheriff’s office was 50,975 and the crime rate was 3,288 crimes per 100,000 people, or approximately 3.3%. In 2009, the crime rate was 1,653 per 100,000 people, or approximately 1.6%. This represents a drop in the Crime Rate of almost 50.3% since 2005.

According to Sheriff Cooke, there are four main contributing factors in this reduction of crime. First, Law Enforcement agencies are doing a better job of working together and sharing information on criminals and their methods of operation.

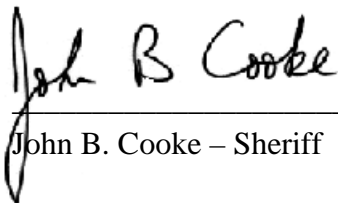
Another key component is the Sheriff’s Office becoming more proactive in the analysis of crime patterns and the use of modern technology in tracking those crime patterns.

Additionally, Sheriff Cooke praises the Weld County community and citizenry for their help in reducing crime. The Weld County Sheriff’s Office has a long tradition of working with the community as partners in fighting crime. Sheriff Cooke believes in one of the principles of operation of the London Metropolitan Police as written in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel, known as the father of modern policing, still hold true today, “The police are the public, and the public are the police.” According to Sheriff Cooke, “We at the Sheriff’s Office are firm believers in community policing; by working together as partners with the public Weld County will be a safer place for everyone.”

Finally, a cooperative effort with the District Attorney’s Office, who aggressively pursues criminals, obtains convictions, and receives appropriate sentences, is another reason for the reduction in crime. If the criminals are off the street and incarcerated they are not free to prey upon law-abiding citizens.

Accomplishing the goals stated in the Weld County Sheriff’s Office Mission Statement continues to shape our daily operations; improving the quality of life in Weld County by lowering the number and impact of major crimes in 2009.

<u>Major Crimes</u>	2008 Reported	2009 Reported	% change
Murder	1	1	0%
Forcible Rape	10	15	50%
Aggravated Assault	93	76	-18%
Robbery	4	5	20%
Arson	7	9	28%
Burglary	320	276	-17%
Larceny/ Theft	509	476	-11%
Motor Vehicle Theft	92	134	45%
Total	1036	992	-4.2%



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