



News from

The Colorado State Patrol

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COLORADO STATE PATROL FIRST IN UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE INTERNET PROGRAM FOR REPORTING VEHICLE CRASHES.

► **SIMPLY CLICK:** www.csp.state.co.us

DENVER, CO (February 6, 2002) -- The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) became the first law enforcement agency in the United States to offer a computer program to improve customer service for filing vehicle crash reports, Colonel Lonnie Westphal, Chief of the CSP, announced today.

"We are very proud to be the first in this country, and perhaps the world, to use cutting edge electronic technology to provide better service to our citizens," said Colonel Westphal.

"We foresee that this new service will help support the economy of the state through a reduction in workers taking time away from their jobs to report crashes, as well as provide a tremendous convenience to the public," said Colonel Westphal. "There also will be a significant savings in time spent by law enforcement clerical staff in handling the reports and explaining them to the public."

Last year the CSP investigated and processed in excess of 40,980 vehicle crash reports. Of that number, nearly 4,000 were counter reports where motorists had to physically visit a CSP office to fill out a report. These numbers do not include the thousands of counter reports where motorists had to go to other law enforcement offices in Colorado to file such reports.

"The use of the Internet offers an expedient solution to improving customer service for a mandatory activity that is often a tedious and frustrating, but necessary task," says Colonel Westphal.

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Citizens involved in vehicle crashes currently must go to a State Patrol office during normal business hours to complete a counter report. Frequently this involves taking time off work, locating the nearest office, and driving to the office, perhaps some distance, to complete the report.

“Using today’s Internet and the World Wide Web allows a citizen to complete a vehicle crash counter report from their business, home, or public access computer on the State Patrol’s web page,” Colonel Westphal said.

By using the new Internet filing system, individuals can submit the data to the Colorado state web server -- www.csp.state.co.us, and receive back on their computer a copy of the data submitted which they can print for their use and records. Filing can also be accomplished at workstations or kiosks in police stations, libraries, or other public locations.”

Access for this no-cost service is through the Colorado State Patrol websites “[http:// www.csp.state.co.us](http://www.csp.state.co.us),” or directly at “<http://crash.state.co.us>”.

Drivers in Colorado are required by law to notify police of any vehicle crash that occurs. The CSP will either dispatch an officer to investigate the crash or instruct the drivers to exchange information and have them respond to an office, at a later time, to fill out a counter report.

When the CSP is on accident alert or the crash occurs on private property (e.g. parking lot) and there are no injuries, no drugs and/or alcohol involved, and all participants have proof of insurance the Colorado State Patrol typically asks the drivers to exchange information and complete a counter report.

If, as a result of an motor vehicle crash, damage to neither vehicle is in excess of \$1,000 and there are no injuries, no drugs and/or alcohol and all parties have proof of insurance the Department of Revenue does not require report of crash other than for financial responsibility purposes. However, motorist must still notify law enforcement of the accident.

The Colorado Driver Handbook (12/99) states that in the event of an accident you should:

- 1. Stop Immediately*
- 2. Check for injuries and where practical render reasonable assistance.*
- 3. Call the police and emergency personnel.*
- 4. Exchange name, address, phone, registration and insurance information.*

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CRASH REPORT**

Colorado Driver Handbook – Con't)

If under accident alert status: If alcohol and drugs are not involved, there are no injuries, and all vehicles are drivable, exchange information listed under #4 above. You must file an accident report with the police within 24 hours.

If an accident involves a parked car and you cannot find the owner, call the police and leave a note in a place that the owner can find it.

Motorist who fail to report a vehicle crash to law enforcement face a class 2 traffic misdemeanor which is punishable by a \$10-\$300 fine and 10-90 days in jail. In addition to the fines and jail 12 points are assessed against the person's driving record.

If a motorist fails to file a reportable crash to the Department of Revenue within 10 days of the crash the Department of Revenue may suspend the driver's license of the person who was involved in the crash.

“Any Colorado law enforcement agency can refer people to the CSP’s web site to make an electronic counter report,” Colonel Westphal pointed out. “Many agencies do not retain copies of these counter reports and are not concerned with related data. However, those agencies, which do want to track these accidents, would be allowed access to the database on the web server. From the database, they may download the data for their jurisdiction.”

VisionTEK, Inc., a Superior, Colorado, broad-based software developer for public safety applications and custom software developed the Internet Counter Report application.

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The mission of the Colorado State Patrol is to ensure a safe and secure environment in Colorado for all persons by providing professional law enforcement through responsive, courteous, caring and dedicated service.