

MINES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CODE 4 CHRONICLES



The latest news from Colorado School of Mines Department of Public Safety.

Chiefly Speaking

December 2021




Dear Mines Community:

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The fall semester is rapidly coming to an end. I know that many of us will be planning to travel for the holidays and winter break to be with friends and family. I wanted to offer you a quick reminder to spend a few moments and make sure your personal vehicle is ready for a road trip. A few safety tips to keep in mind:

- Check your vehicle's fluids and top off as needed.
- Check air pressure and the overall condition of your tires.
- Belts and hoses should be inspected carefully for malfunction or abnormal noise.
- Listen and feel the brakes for grinding or abnormal noises.
- Replace the wiper blades.
- Emergency and first-aid kits are also a good idea to keep in your vehicle.
- Bring a battery pack/jumper-cables with you in case your battery malfunctions.

You have done spectacular work this semester and persevered through a variety of challenges. Enjoy your well-deserved break, and we will see you soon. Go Orediggers!



Dustin Olson
Chief of Police
Director of Public Safety



Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Colorado School of Mines Police Department to make the Mines campus the safest campus in Colorado.

Department members strive to provide progressive, professional and courteous police services in partnership with the Colorado School of Mines community and the residents of the City of Golden.

Say Hello to one of our newest officers, Officer Godina!

Where did you grow up? How long have you been in law enforcement, and where have you worked?

I was born and raised in the north side of Denver, Colorado. I started in law enforcement in 2018 and have worked at the Commerce City Police Department, Jefferson County Public Schools, and the Gilpin County.

What attracted you to Mines? What is your favorite part of working at Mines?

I was attracted to the close-knit community that Mines has. Everyone here is super respectful and supportive of law enforcement and the best part is Mines is a smaller university, so everyone knows each other.

What do you like to do on your days off/What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy playing volleyball and eating, especially pizza, burgers, and wings.

Favorite movie and TV show?

My favorite movie is The Dark Knight because Heath Ledger did a great job portraying the Joker. My all-time favorite TV show is That '70s Show, but currently, I have been enjoying Squid Game.



Favorite local restaurant?

Tony P's Pizzeria & Bar is my favorite restaurant; they have really good pizza and I definitely recommend you check it out.

What is your favorite donut?

My favorite donut is a chocolate frosted donut.

Is there something interesting or unique about you that you'd like to share?

Something interesting about me is that I played football for the USA National Team. I got to play at the Texas Longhorns stadium, and it was a great.

Fall Safety Tips

With the change in seasons and the limited daylight, now is a good time to refresh our safety habits. We must recognize our vulnerabilities and trust our gut when it comes to potentially dangerous situations.

1. Walk with a friend and in well-lit areas if possible.
 2. Have your keys ready to limit time spent outside of your vehicle.
 3. Keep a set of jumper cables in your car. Be familiar with your owner's manual before situations arise.
 4. Park in well-lit areas.
 5. Remember to lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.
 6. Make sure someone knows your plan when going out: Share your location with a roommate, parent, or friend.
 7. Practice Self-Awareness: There are many habits we can practice that will make us less vulnerable to attacks.
 - a. Limit electronic distractions.
 - b. Practice using all 5 senses: Don't walk alone with headphones in – take out at least one earbud.
 - c. Scan new environments: Practice recognizing suspicious objects or people.
 - d. Have an exit strategy – be aware of exits wherever you are.
 - e. Trust your intuition and not ignoring warning signs.
 - f. Speak up- don't hesitate to call authorities in a situation where you feel unsafe.
 - g. Blue Light Phones – there are 19 blue emergency call stations located on campus. To reach 911 dispatch, push the red emergency button and wait for dispatcher to answer and explain problem. A blue strobe light is activated when phone is in use. <https://tour.mines.edu/map/>
 - h. Courtesy Ride w/in reason – Call [303-273-3333](tel:303-273-3333) if you are in an unsafe situation and need a ride somewhere safe.
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Officer Bryann Lynch and Winkie

On August 24, 2021, two burros came to Colorado School of Mines to audition to be the next mascot, Blaster. Bryann Lynch, one of Mines' police officers, decided to join in on the fun and met both Winkie and Pepsi and talked about the experience.

Tell us about the experience. What made you want to participate and what was your favorite part?

Blaster has always been my spirit animal and I heard there were going to be auditions, so I wanted to go. I met [Contestant #1] and [Contestant #2], got to pet them, take pictures, and run with them as well. My dream is to run with Blaster during a football game, so this was a good introduction!

How was running with the burros?

It was harder than you think, since you are not supposed to look back at them but cannot pull them either. It is recommended that you get closer to them, which motivates them run faster. Blue Key usually runs with Blaster and always does a great job.

How did Blasters "in the running" differ from the old Blaster?

The old Blaster was fluffier and more interested in eating grass than anything else. [Contestant #1] likes to run more, while [Contestant #2] likes interacting with others instead. I think that [#1] looks more like the old Blaster, as [#2] is brown and smaller than the old Blaster. [Both are] very cute, and it makes complete sense why a decision could not be made between the two.

What do you like most about Blaster?

I believe that Blaster is a great role model because even though he is tiny, he is incredibly feisty. He might be small, but he is like a stick of dynamite; he makes a big impact!



Bryann Lynch and an aspiring Blaster at tryouts to be the new Blaster

Bluetooth Trackers: A new help in the fight against crime, but what are the risks?

A new tech gadget has been gaining popularity and is changing the way people view security. These devices are Bluetooth trackers, where owners can connect them to personal belongings and track where their devices are at any given moment. While this has allowed for people to have increased awareness of their property, it has led to some unintended consequences that you should be aware of.



People have decided to take justice into their own hands, and when their property is stolen, have been tracking down thieves themselves. While this may seem like an easy and smart choice, it can be dangerous to confront criminals on your own rather than getting the help of law enforcement. These trackers were not intended to get stolen valuables back, but rather, locate one's lost belongings. In the case that there is a tracker on a stolen item, the best option would be to inform law enforcement who are trained and equipped and can help in the process of getting it back.

If your items have been stolen, and you have tracked them to a location,

CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Anyone who is willing to break the law and steal is likely willing to break other laws, possibly putting you in danger. Officers have the training to address the situation where there is no way to know what might happen. They have the authority to take certain actions, like acquiring the property warrants, to ensure the return of recovered property.
- Just because you track your stolen property does not guarantee that the person who has it is the person who stole. Keep in mind that thieves sell property for cash, and an innocent buyer might have purchased your bike or other belongings. You don't want to find yourself on the wrong side of an unnecessary confrontation.
- Be prepared to provide them with your personal information, a description of the stolen item, any police report information (if you reported it stolen), when and from where it was stolen, the location your tracking device shows, and any other details that might be important.

Most important- DO NOT GO TO THE LOCATION. There is no guarantee your belongings are still there, and you can't know if it's safe. No item is worth your life.

Besides people tracking down stolen property on their own, another unintended consequence of Bluetooth trackers is that they could be used for stalking. Apple's AirTag can work to mitigate this, but this is only compatible with those who have an iOS device. The best campus resource to find more information is Mines ITS Security department at security@mines.edu.

It's good to have another tool to organize your life, but don't compromise your safety. If you need our help to, we're here for you!