



HUGO

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026



WINTER: THE SEASON OF CO AWARENESS

Winter brings snow, ice, frigid winds — and an uptick in 911 calls for carbon monoxide issues. CO is a colorless, odorless gas created by everyday items like furnaces, space heaters, stoves, dryers, generators and vehicles. Even small amounts built up indoors can cause CO poisoning, with symptoms including headaches or dizziness, nausea or vomiting, shortness of breath, fatigue, and confusion. Each year, more than 200 people in the U.S. die from CO poisoning.

Here’s what you need to know to be safe and avoid a call for help in the New Year:

- Place working CO detectors with fresh batteries on every floor of your home, especially near bedrooms. Interconnected CO alarms are best; when one sounds, they all sound. Alarms are the first and most effective defense against CO poisoning.
- Never idle your car or use a portable generator in a garage — even with the doors open, CO fumes can still drift inside the main residence. One portable generator can produce the same amount of CO as hundreds of cars.
- Get your furnace and fireplace/chimney inspected annually and repaired or replaced if needed. Your heating system works hardest in winter, and that’s when leaks or blockages are the most dangerous.
- Keep outdoor vents clear of leaves, snow and ice to prevent backdrafts.
- If your CO alarm goes off or if multiple people or pets suddenly feel sick or lethargic in the same area of your home, get outside to fresh air immediately — and *then* call 911.

Stay safe, be proactive, and don’t ignore early signs of fatigue or nausea indoors. For more information, visit the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](https://www.safercar.gov/).

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

332

TRAFFIC STOPS

144

CITATIONS

144



WC25066532 DWI

FRENCHMAN ROAD & VICTOR HUGO BOULEVARD N

At 6:11pm on Dec. 14, deputies received multiple calls about an SUV driving well under the speed limit, failing to maintain a lane, driving over curbs and striking a parked vehicle. One caller followed the SUV to an address on Evergreen Drive N and saw the driver get out and enter a residence. After arriving at the home and making contact with the driver, deputies immediately noticed that she smelled strongly of consumed alcoholic drinks, that she was swaying while seated and had trouble remaining upright, had watery eyes and was slurring her speech. The driver refused to perform field sobriety tests or take a breath test, saying she was home. However, due to multiple witnesses observing her in the driver's seat and her reported driving conduct, deputies arrested her on suspicion of DWI. At Washington County Jail, the driver continued to refuse to cooperate. Due to a prior DWI conviction in 2019, the driver faces charges of DWI, 2nd degree DWI, refusal to submit to testing, and collision with a parked vehicle.

MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Congratulations to K9 Rookie on her recent retirement from the Coordinated Response Team, after five-and-a-half years of service alongside Sgt. Matt O'Hara.

K9 Rookie was trained through Freedom Service Dogs in Colorado. Freedom Service Dogs primarily trains purpose-bred service dogs for veterans, first responders, and those with autism spectrum disorder. K9 Rookie was the first therapy dog partnered with law enforcement for this purpose in Minnesota, assisting CRT in its mission to connect people in crisis with the care they need and reduce mental health-related arrests and repeat calls for service. Through presentations, classroom visits, crisis calls, and regular follow-up visits with community members struggling with mental health concerns, K9 Rookie was an important part of the team.

Through her calm, steadfast and loving demeanor, K9 Rooke provided support, companionship and a communication bridge to people in crisis as well as community members and even WCSO staff.

To continue this important work, CRT's Detective Julia Weegman is now the handler of Penny, a 10-week-old Golden Retriever who will begin her training soon. Congratulations Detective Weegman and welcome K9 Penny!

Our team wishes all of our communities a happy, safe and healthy New Year.



In service,

Sheriff Dan Starry