



# Vail Police Department

Year in Review

# 2013



## Message from Chief Dwight Henninger

I am pleased to report on a remarkable year of extraordinary service, dedication and operational readiness. We are grateful for the solid support of the Vail Town Council, Vail Town Manager, community and collaborative partners.

We addressed over 35,000 calls for service, handled an array of crime and disorder incidents, investigated and examined the root causes of crime issues and supported a high volume of special events.

We made significant public safety gains with Vail's Traffic and Road Safety Program and met the challenges of raising our road safety ratings and ensuring traffic flows unrestrained through:

- High visibility patrol on Interstate 70 and neighborhood streets
- Aggressive chain law enforcement
- Joint traffic operations with Avon Police Department, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado State Patrol and the Colorado Department of Transportation
- The Gore Range DUI Task Force
- Strong messaging with the help of the Town's Community Information Office educating the motoring public on responsible driving.

Through these efforts, the number of impaired drivers, speeders and commercial vehicle operators in violation of Colorado's chain law dropped appreciably.

On the organizational front, we put a lot of effort into recruiting and retaining employees and invested in developing leadership skills throughout the department. We adopted an online, progressive policy and procedures manual which includes a daily training component for officers. This new online tool allows us to stay up-to-date with statutory and case law changes.

In the technical arena, we launched several major projects after assessing current equipment and system performances, as well as the safety and legal ramifications of using deficient equipment and inadequate systems. Projects included a new in-car video system, upgrade to our computer aided dispatch/records management/jail/mobile software, upgrade to the 9-1-1 phone system, a new livescan fingerprinting unit and new mobile data terminals in 12 patrol vehicles.

While we are proceeding fundamentally on track in preparation for a safe and secure 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, our dedicated staff of men and women at the Vail Police Department and the Vail Public Safety Communications Center are working harder than ever. We want to mitigate safety and security threats before, during and after the event. By this commitment to preparation and education, we would also hope to inspire others in the community and officers from Colorado law enforcement agencies to volunteer to work the event and help make history.

We pledge to continually improve our service through a comprehensive program of education, investigation, evaluation and enforcement.

## Gains Made in Delivering Safety and Security through High Quality Service in Key Areas

### Community Safety

- Improved road safety on Interstate 70 by reducing rates of impaired driving, speeding and chain law violations
- Increased chain law enforcement on Interstate 70
- Placed 2 cameras at eastbound chain up areas on Interstate 70
- Recorded meaningful decreases in burglaries and sexual assaults
- Increased crime reporting by the multiethnic / multi-cultural community
- Reduced crime rates committed by Hispanics/Latinos
- Provided public safety coordination to over 100 special events

### Public Trust

- Continued to post updated, online information about crimes, disorder and police services
- Grew our social media platform using Twitter and Facebook
- Recruited 14 local students for a countywide Explorers Program
- Patrolled the slopes of Vail Mountain on a volunteer basis

### Emergency Preparedness

- Brought together emergency management stakeholders to practice incident response and recovery skills
- Achieved significant milestones identified in the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships Safety & Security Plan



## Vail Public Safety Communications Center



The VPSCC is funded through a consortium of the Eagle County 911 Authority and 12 user agencies. The 911 Authority contributes the largest share of funds. Remaining funds are allocated to user agencies based upon the percentage of the total number of calls for service averaged over the past three years. In 2013 the Town of Vail's share was 35.6%.

The state-of-the-art facility is supported by an advanced computer aided dispatch system, enhanced 911 phone service and superior emergency community notification systems. Dispatchers hold certifications in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD).



## Crime Category Spotlights

**Drug offenses** have declined by 52% since 2012 following the passage of the Colorado Marijuana law. The decrease also coincides with strong anti-drug messaging.

**Disorderly Conduct** and **Protective Custody** incidents have decreased by 58% and 52% respectively since 2012. A high level of Vail Police presence on the streets during special drink nights at local bars deter crimes and events associated with high levels of alcohol misuse.

**Burglaries** decreased by 25% since 2012. Burglary prevention efforts include residential and commercial property checks by officers during an owner's absence as well as extra foot

patrol on night shifts.

Fewer **Sexual Offenses** were reported in 2013. It is believed a decline in overservice of alcohol at bars is one factor for the decrease.

## Calls for Service

	2012	2013
Total calls for service	37,734	35,345
Parking problems	3,277	2,961
Assists	2,980	2,927
Follow ups	2,371	2,530
Traffic stops	1,992	2,529
911 call/alerts	2,623	2,313
Prisoner processing	1,308	1,192

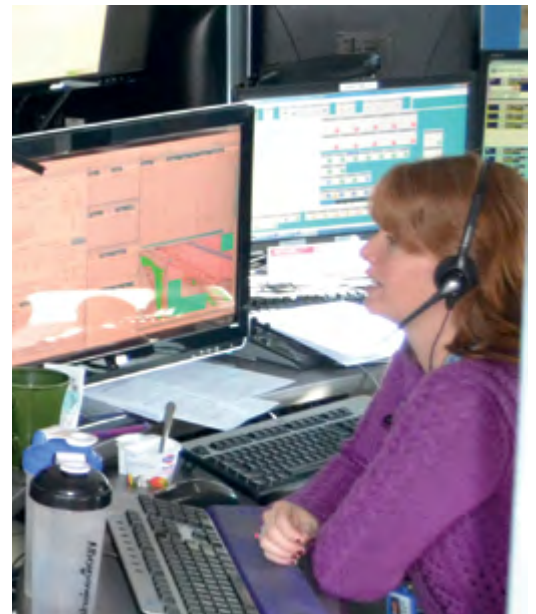
Call types listed are not inclusive of all call types.

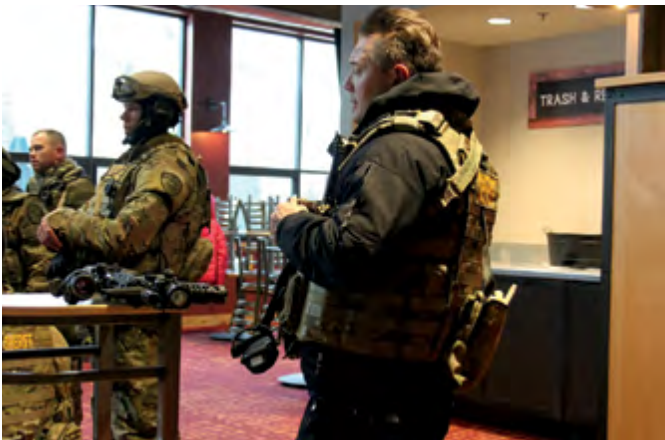
## Top Offenses 2011 - 2013

	2011	2012	2013
Total Arrests	890	896	744
Public Order Crimes	409	415	352
Burglary	36	28	22
Larceny/Theft	359	306	317
Ski/Board Theft	82	78	83
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	5	11
Assault	57	60	60
Fraud	95	76	87
DUI/DUID/DWAI	97	84	68
Drugs	205	217	113
Vandalism	119	117	122
Sexual Offenses	6	16	8
Trespassing	51	59	60
Trespassing (Vehicular)	18	22	30
Disorderly Conduct	84	79	46
Obstructing/Resisting	40	33	24
Protective Custody	147	145	75

Multiple offenses are counted separately for a single incident.

The Communications Center handled 105,737 calls for service and 20,228 9-1-1 calls in 2013 for 12 agencies.





## Crime and Disorder

The Vail Police continue to address crime, disorder and quality of life issues through proactive measures, education, enforcement and investigation. Officers are assigned to foot patrol at various hot spot crime locations during the time of the day when crime and quality of life violations occur most frequently.

To eradicate problems that are most pressing to the public, officers follow the traditional Walk and Talk strategy known to law enforcement throughout the world. By walking the streets and making observations, officers can initiate proactive calls to prevent problems from occurring. By talking with citizens, business owners and visitors, officers build personal connections so critical for building trust.

Examples of proactive calls for service initiated by officers are shown in the table below.

### Proactive Calls for Service

	2013
Foot Patrol	3,965
Follow-ups	2,530
Suspicious Contacts	997
Bar Checks	236
Business Checks	131
Civil Standbys	113
Security Checks	75
Community Policing	74
Welfare Checks	56
Chain Law	53
Special Assignment	52
Open Windows/Doors	42
Suicidal Party	36
High Water Checks	22

## Special Operations Unit

The Eagle County Special Operations Unit is staffed by specially trained members of the Vail and Avon Police Departments and the Eagle County Sheriff's Office.

The team recently held a joint training exercise in Beaver Creek with Garfield County's All Hazards Response Team and FBI SWAT members in preparation for the 2015 Alpine World Ski Championships.

## Drug Task Force

The Two Rivers Drug Enforcement Team (TRIDENT) made 96 felony arrests on various drug and drug trafficking charges spanning from Vail to Garfield County during the year. Vail Police is a participant in the drug enforcement team.

## Community Policing

Examples of collaborative interactions between Vail Police, the community and our strategic partners:

- Interstate 70 Education and Enforcement Campaign
- Emergency response and recovery drills
- Mental health and substance abuse interventions
- Trust building between law enforcement and multi-cultural/ethnic community members
- Domestic violence advocacy programs
- Participation in countywide DUI task force
- Crime prevention seminars
- Language Interpreters Program
- Food drive
- National Night Out
- Adopt-a-Homeroom
- Mock school lockdown drills
- Shop with a Cop
- Neighborhood Picnics

## Social & Physical Disorder Calls

Social Disorders	2012	2013
Noise Complaint	253	240
Animal Complaint	197	236
Intoxicated Person	210	195
Disturbance	127	120
Fight	104	88
Harassment	66	83
Trespassing	81	66
Domestic Disturbance	55	57
Drugs	39	37
Juvenile Problem	19	14
Fireworks	10	11
Shots Fired	9	10
Prowler	3	3
Physical Disorders	2012	2013
Damage	161	174
Construction Incident	123	87
Abandoned Vehicle	87	86
Towed Vehicle	52	82

Table includes calls for service contributing towards the public's perception of their sense of safety.

## Key State Legislation

### Colorado's Marijuana Law

Vail Police are educating the public on responsible marijuana use, the consequences for breaking laws, regulations governing recreational marijuana, and the legal and health risks of marijuana use.

[www.vailgov.com/marijuana](http://www.vailgov.com/marijuana)



## Key Town Legislation

### Vail Passenger Transportation Ordinance

A municipal decree establishing a permit system to help regulate the town's management of shuttles, limousines, taxis, buses and oversized transportation vehicles was passed in 2012. The system continues to successfully address staging, congestion and ease of service issues in the Village Core and Lionshead.

Over 400 permits have been issued to transportation companies and oversized-vehicles needing to access restricted passenger pick up and drop off areas.





## Traffic Management & Road Safety Strategies

Strategies rely on education, enforcement, visibility, evaluation and engineering.

- Encourage reporting of unsafe driving behaviors
- Promote pedestrian and bicycle road sharing
- Traffic Incident Management Plan strategies
- Interstate 70 Education & Enforcement
- Collaboration with Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Department of Transportation and neighboring agencies
- Chain law inspections
- Safe tire tread inspections
- Radar trailer
- Speed awareness mannequin
- Neighborhood speed management
- Variable message signs
- Click-It or Ticket It
- Gore Range DUI Task Force
- Stranded trucker areas
- East Vail access permits
- Stranded trucker areas
- Loading and delivery regulation enforcement
- Coordinated passenger drop offs and pickups
- Identifying data essential to traffic analysis
- POLICEintel - a law enforcement info sharing tool with traffic and crime bulletins

### Top Five Traffic-Related Calls for Service

	2012	2013
Traffic stops	3,277	2,961
Patrol / radar	1,453	1,384
Traffic control	393	303
Road debris/mud, rock, snow slides/Hazards	147	181
REDDI Report (Report Every Drunk Driver Immediately)	118	100

Calls do not include traffic accidents

### Top Five Traffic Citations by Violation

	2012	2013
Speeding	707	422
Other Moving	44	50
Signs/Yield/ Traffic Device	26	33
Seatbelt	n/a	27
Non-moving	63	24

### Summary of the I-70 Education and Enforcement Program: 2012/2013

	2012	2013
Total patrol time spent on I-70 (hours)	1,145	1,116
Number of citations issued for speeding	456	293
Average speed of citations issued (miles per hour)	82	82
Number of custodial or summonsed arrests	100	94
Number of warnings issued	680	679
Accidents on I-70	92	114
Accidents on I-70 as % of total accidents in Vail	23	25
Number of commercial vehicles issued warnings	27	28
Number of commercial vehicles issued citations	26	32



## Traffic Accidents in Vail

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Accidents	445	462	385	393	443
Accidents involving alcohol or drugs	15	22	21	11	12

## Most Common Harmful Causes in Accidents

	2011	2012	2013
Collision with moving vehicle	155	135	155
Collision with an object	131	130	143
Collision with a parked vehicle	58	54	60
Non-collision	11	17	26
Collision with wild animal	22	23	25



Of the 571 drivers involved in motor vehicle accidents in 2013, 41% were out-of-county residents. Of the 159 drivers in accidents on the interstate, 63% were out-of-county residents.



## Colorado Law Enforcement Challenge Award

The Vail Police Department has been recognized for excellence in our traffic safety efforts by the Colorado Law Enforcement Challenge for the last four years for departments with less than 100 officers. A number of officers have also received awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

## Traffic Safety Award

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Award was given to Vail Police Officer Richard Sardelli in 2013. The award recognizes Officer Sardelli's outstanding DUI enforcement in a mountain region.



## Highlights of Major Cases

Detectives managed 91 new cases in 2013 comprised of 4 sexual assaults (including one on a child which was transferred to an outside agency), 18 burglaries, 68 assaults and 8 non-criminal deaths.

In 2013, we saw the successful adjudication of several significant cases from 2012. A male peeping-tom with multiple felony charges plead guilty to 2nd Degree Burglary of a Dwelling and Invasion Privacy Sex Gratification. A male who lit an East Vail condominium complex on fire in an effort to kill his estranged girlfriend plead guilty to attempted Murder 1-Extreme Indifference and with Stalking-Emotional Distress.

From fall 2012 through spring of 2013, Detectives investigated multiple reports of a housekeeping manager harassing female employees. Working closely with community partnerships formed by the Eagle County Law Enforcement Immigrant Advisory Committee, non-English speaking victims of extortion and unlawful sexual contact were able to gain a voice in reporting the crime. After a successful prosecution



at the first jury trial, the offender has subsequently plead guilty to two additional cases. Investigations by state and federal agencies are ongoing.

An astute local merchant in Lionshead spotted items stolen from her inventory on EBay. Investigating officers identified a suspect. Detectives supported the investigation and recovered more than \$20,000 in stolen retail property at the suspect's residence. The suspect is facing seven counts of Theft. A Jury Trial is set for July 2014.

An affair that soured was the reason one female confessed she sent hundreds of harassing text and phone calls to her former flame. The male even-

tually reported the harassment which had been occurring for over two years. Detectives executed search warrants for phone records. Faced with overwhelming evidence, the female admitted her actions and was charged with Harassment and Domestic Violence.

Although signs are displayed in UPS and Federal Express stores warning customers not to ship drugs, various individuals make the attempt to ship marijuana outside the state. These cases are investigated locally and then generally transferred to the regional drug task force as leads develop.



## Eagle County Law Enforcement Immigrant Advisory Committee

Committee members work together to provide resources and information through education and outreach to build trust and collaboration with the

immigrant community. Program goals include:

- Increase police-immigrant community trust and advance civil rights
- Increase the the frequency of collaborative interactions between law enforcement and the immigrant community
- Increase the number of Hispanics/Latinos who report crime
- Decrease the rate of victimization among the immigrant community

Ongoing projects and programs of the committee include a Volunteer Language Interpreter Program, a Frequently Asked Questions brochure,

a Spanish Citizen's Police Academy, community outreach events and two-way training. Training for law enforcement includes cultural diversity and communications tips for speaking with non-English speakers. Training for the immigrant community covers topics on road safety, the judicial system, child welfare and police-immigrant relations.

**Crime reporting by the Hispanic community in Eagle County as compared to the total service population increased by 3.4% and Hispanics arrested has decreased by 7.8% over the last three years. Hispanics victimized by crime decreased by 2.8% over the last three years.**



## Professional Standards Investigations

The department investigates all complaints. The complaints come in two forms, either through an internal audit system or externally by citizens.

A substantive complaint will be thoroughly investigated by our Professionals Standards Unit. This is critical for maintaining the trust of the community in their police department.

There were eight professional standard cases in 2013; all eight professional standards cases investigated were from the Patrol Division. Three were sustained minor traffic accidents, the fourth was a vehicle accident in which a Code Enforcement Officer was exonerated and found not to be at fault. Two officers received written reprimands and one received verbal counseling for the crash. Two investigations were for negligent misfire of the Taser cartridge into the floor during daily spark tests for which they received written reprimands. There were two investigations for alleged misconduct. One incident was sustained in a training accident and for which the officer received written reprimand along with a suspension and the other unfounded.

In 2013 there were 22 "Use of Force" cases involving Vail PD personnel and reviewed by the Vail Police Administration. Each use of force case was found to be within policy. Of the 22 cases, four were destruction of wildlife from citizen traffic accidents with deer and elk.

## Eagle County Explorers Program

The program debuted in November 2013 with 8 members and increased to 14 Explorers within a few months. Two sergeants and one lieutenant provide an overview of the law enforcement profession to these young adults from 14-21 years of age. The program, aimed at prompting critical thinking skills and building character, is expected to keep growing as more local students and agencies join.



## Dispositions of Investigated Complaints

Standards Category	Incidents	Dispositions
Improper Behavior	4	2 written reprimands 1 suspension & reprimand 1 unfounded
Traffic Accidents	4	1 verbal counseling 2 written reprimand 1 exonerated
TOTAL	8	
Standards Category - Use of Force	Incidents	Dispositions
Use of force	18	within policy
Use of force - wildlife destruction	4	within policy (destruction of injured wildlife)
TOTAL	22	



## Vail Police Organization Assets

- 28 Sworn Personnel
- 33 Civilian Personnel
- 22 Volunteers
- 10 Language Interpreters
- 14 Explorers
- 1 Chaplain
- 1 Special Operations Unit
- 12 Marked Vehicles
- 4 Unmarked Vehicles
- 6 Mountain Bikes

## 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships

The Vail Valley Foundation, the Town of Vail and its partners continue to focus on preparations for hosting the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships. The Vail Police are actively involved in the security and safety planning for the championships.

“Countdown 2-15” festivities brought together the Eagle County community and its guests to kickoff the championships, introduce the Countdown Clock and officially debut championships mascots.

The February 2-14, 2015 event will assemble the greatest skiers from over 70 nations and amass over 150,000 spectators, officials and dignitaries. Given the high level of international participation together with a global television audience of 1 billion, it will be an extraordinary event on the scale of the Olympics and consequently extremely challenging to plan and run.



## Safety & Security Committee

The Security Committee for the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships is one of 21 Operating Committees and is chaired by Vail Police Chief Dwight Henninger. As early as 2011, the Security Committee identified an approach to event planning, staging and sustainability that includes use of the Incident Command System with 15 Working Groups functioning as the level to get the preparation work done before February 2015. This level in the traditional ICS system would be equivalent to the Unit, or Group level. The duties and responsibilities of each Working Group are critical to the overall success of the Security Committee’s charge to ensure a safe and secure World Championships.

Safety and security needs at this major international event exceed the capacity of a collaboration of neighboring agencies. Additional sworn officers from agencies throughout Colorado are therefore needed to take part in efforts to maximize local efforts to respond to critical incidents, threats of terrorist activity, dignitary protection and the safety of the traveling public.

To achieve the goals set out by the organizing committee, all public safety personnel, volunteers and event organizers will be well trained for the rigors and challenges of hosting the 2015 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships.



# 41st Annual Colorado Peace Officers Ski Race







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