



COLORADO CORONERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

Presidents Message

Happy Holidays! And Happy New Year!

We are busy pursuing the Green burial bill and are now in the process of deciding what specifically to include in the bill. I have been one additional time to the state legislature and met with legislators regarding this problem. Everyone understands that if nothing is done that this will be a significant problem long term and will continue to become worse as time goes on if more burials continue. We are trying to get a handle on how many green cemeteries there are throughout the state and how many cemeteries there are that have a section of the cemetery dedicated to green burials. If there are enough cemeteries throughout the state that are green or have a section of the cemetery that is green then we may consider going forward with requiring that all green burials occur in existing cemeteries. We have investigated the idea of GPS for plotting but our surveyor contact has stated that there are places in the state where you cannot get good reception or no reception at all and therefore you cannot always locate where a given body is buried.

The salary commission has been meeting and will be sending its salary recommendations forward to the legislature. Our representative Bob Fowler (Otero County Coroner) has given us a written report that is in this newsletter.

We also now have an opportunity to join in discussion with the CCSTB over eliminating the problems that continue to exist and hopefully we can make some significant progress so that next year we have a process for reporting our continuing education that is streamlined, responsive and simple. Brenda Bock our CCA vice president is spearheading this project.

I wish for all of you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

Bob
Robert C. Bux, MD – CCA President

Next CCA Meeting:

Saturday January 09, 2010. At the Doubletree World Arena, I-25 and Circle in Colorado Springs. The meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served.

Please let Chris Herndon (719-649-1865 or herschweer@msn.com) know if you are planning to attend the meeting so she can order food for lunch.

Be sure to check our website for upcoming training and other great information:
Coloradocoroners.org

Committee Reports

Education Committee

The Education Committee duties are to develop programs for the Outreach Seminars, June Conference and any other education programs offered by CCA.

CCA is proud to have trainings approved for continuing education credits both locally and nationally.

The next Outreach will be hosted by the Larimer and Weld County Offices in Loveland on April 8th and 9th, 2010. The class will be expanded to two full days so that we can give you 16 hours of continuing credit.

The 2010 June Conference will be June 10th, 11th and 12th, 2010 in Colorado Springs. Mark your calendar!!

Ike Miller

The Ike Miller committee is responsible for managing the award process for the special award created by Dr. Ben Galloway, and any other awards that the Board of Directors deem appropriate.

The 2009 winner was Carlette Brocious, a Deputy Coroner from Fremont County. She will be attending the St. Louis class in April.

This special funding has paid for training, room and board at the medicolegal death investigation classes in either St. Louis or New Mexico. This funding is available again this year. Don't let this pass you by! Contact any of the Board members to get an application if you need one.

Marketing

This committee is responsible for providing a selection of merchandise for members to purchase during our conferences. Mike and Sandy Graeff prepare all year, finding new things for you. If there is anything that you think would be beneficial for other Coroner's to have please let them know.

Certification and Website, by Brenda Bock, Chair

I was at the CCSTB meeting in November and there were many suggestions made to help simplify the certification process. I will be going over these suggestions with the CCA Board in January at our meeting. We will be trying to work with the CCST Board and will keep you updated on anything that comes from it. In the meantime, if you have any questions about either certification, please email me or give me a call.

I also would like to STRONGLY encourage you when sending in your hours to the CCST Board to send them certified mail or if you email them to ask for a receipt confirmation. We have had some complaints that people have sent their hours to Janet and never gotten credit for them. This way it gives you a confirmation and Janet too. You can check out your status on with web site under CCSTB and go all the way to the bottom of the page. We update the status of these on a quarterly basis.

The deadline for submitting 2009 training documentation is January 31, 2010 for CCSTB

I also want to encourage you to keep checking out the CCA website. We are trying to add training opportunities when we get them. If you know of training that isn't listed on the website, please forward them to me and I will make sure they get posted.

If you have a CCA certification and are expired, you have a 6 month grace period to get the info in to me before you would have to start the whole process over again. Make sure to check out the "[COLORADO CORONERS ASSOCIATION DEATH INVESTIGATORS CERTIFICATION STATUS](#)" on the website to make sure you are current.

One suggestion was made at the Montrose outreach to have a link for [Forensic Experts and Helpful Telephone Numbers](#) . You will notice that a link has been added to the left side for that. If you have any suggestions of things to post on the web site, please email Chris or I and let us know.

Salary Commission

The Salary Commission is made up of representatives of all County elected officials. The Commission has been meeting this fall to work on recommendations to send to the State Legislature. Bob Fowler is CCA's representative to this commission: The overall recommendations going to the legislature will be the following:

- 1) A 5% pay raises across board for all elected officials. To be effective January 2011.
- 2) A recommendation that the Salary Commission meet every other year (on even years) so that implementation would occur for the off year elections.
 - That would create recommendations on a bi-annual basis
 - would generate a report to the legislature every 2-years (instead of the current every 4-year time frame)

Item #2 will take some work with the legislature to make some changes. It could make budgeting easier than having a large raise in 4 or 8 years (small amount every 2 years as compared to a large raise every 4 or 8 years).

Coroner Assist Team

Don Heer, the Morgan County Coroner would like to announce that he has a fully stocked Disaster Mortuary Response Trailer. This vehicle is available for response to a multiple fatality event. The Morgan County Coroner Office will man the vehicle and be responsible for its upkeep and transportation. The equipment is available on a replacement basis.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact Don.

Don Heer
Morgan County Coroner
512 Edmunds Street
Brush, Colorado 80723

970. 842. 4955

New National Suicide Statistics at a Glance:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/suicide/statistics/index.html>

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death among all Americans. Each year, more than 33,000 people ages 10 years and older take their own lives. In addition, more than 385,000 people 10 years and older are treated in emergency departments for nonfatal self-harm injuries every year. CDC works to prevent suicidal behavior and help all Americans to live healthier and more fulfilling lives. Monitoring and tracking trends in suicide across the United States provides critical data to help prevent the problem.

CDC's new National Suicide Statistics at a Glance provides national statistics on suicide and suicidal behavior. These data can help public health officials, researchers, practitioners and the public to describe and monitor suicide trends and to develop and evaluate prevention programs and strategies. Together we can create communities in which all Americans are safe from violence, and are able to reach their full potential.

A New Way to Commit Suicide

As we all know and have seen in investigations, people have used many different means to take their life.

Now there is a new way being used to commit suicide. However, with this latest method, not only does the person die, but he/she endangers others. With this new method, there is the potential of a citizen or first responder becoming a victim as well.

In recent news articles in California, Oregon, Idaho and Georgia, people have been found inside locked vehicles, with a handmade note attached to the vehicle windows which advises Bio Hazard-Danger and explains about the chemicals.

The new way to commit suicide has been discovered by mixing two chemicals that can be bought over the counter at local stores. They are Bonide - a sulfur spray used as an insecticide for fruit trees and hydrochloric (muriatic) acid. Once mixed, the chemicals produce heat and a flammable, noxious gas that causes the subject to pass out and the heart stop within minutes. The process appears to be quick and painless.

One incident in Pasadena, California and one in Bartow County, Georgia, involved young men in their early 20's. Both were found locked inside their cars with the chemicals. Each left a note on the car warning anyone around of danger. In one case, the vehicle had been taped to prevent gas from escaping. The reporting call to dispatch on one case was dispatched as a person down.

In other incidents only a Bio Hazard Emblem on pieces of paper had been taped to the windows of the vehicles.

With the potential of lethal gasses etc., these cases will become a full blown Hazardous Materials Incident, which depending where the incident happens, could result in a multijurisdictional response.

Be aware of this new way to commit suicide and don't become a victim.

Other Information we've come across:

Driver's Licenses

We use them on almost all of our cases. Historically we have collected them and kept them with our files. Many families ask for them to be returned and a lot of us have been concerned about someone fraudulently using a deceased's driver's license for a nefarious reason. According to the Colorado Department of Revenue they purge their system using a list that they get from the Colorado State Vital Statistics. If you punch a hole in the driver's license it invalidates it. There are some Coroners who have the ability to copy a driver's license on scene and return it to the family after punching a hole in it.

Running for re-election?

Even though you did it four years ago, you still have to be fingerprinted again. Be sure to check with your County Clerk to see what other regulations have changed with the election laws such as the electronic quarterly forms.



"I hate it when Bill brings work home."

**Dora** Consumer protection is our mission
September 2009

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor
D. Rico Munn
Executive Director

E-UPDATE

Office of Funeral Home & Crematory Registration
Angeline Kinnaird Linn, Section Director

ANNOUNCING THE NEW OFFICE OF FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY REGISTRATION WEBSITE

The new Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration website is now "live" and located at:
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/funeralhome-crematory/index.htm>

The website is intended to be a resource to you and others in the funeral and crematory industry for information about the new requirements to register funeral establishments and crematories by January 1, 2010 resulting from HB09-1202. Please spread the word to others you know who may be interested!

You will also find information about the implementation of HB09-1202; a copy of the bill; answers to frequently asked questions; policies; and rulemaking information, including the rules that have been proposed for adoption during the first scheduled rulemaking hearing on September 23, 2009.

Please check this site periodically for updates, including the posting of the application to apply for registration, anticipated by November 1, 2009. Additional information to be posted will be the schedule of outreach meetings hosted by the Division of Registrations and the Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration in Grand Junction, Pueblo, Fort Collins, and Denver to provide information and updates on the implementation of this legislation.

Office of Funeral Home and Crematory Registration
1560 Broadway, Suite 1350
Denver, CO 80202
303.894.7800
funeral@dora.state.co.us

DORA | 1560 Broadway | Suite 1350 | Denver | CO | 80202

www.dora.state.co.us/funeralhome-crematory


Consumer protection is our mission