



State Capitol Police Department Crime Prevention and Safety Programs 2014



The State Capitol Police Department (SCPD) is committed to community outreach programs directed toward the legislative community in an effort to promote awareness and enhance personal safety and well-being, both in the Capitol complex and in the world beyond. Educating the legislative community about safety and security issues is of prime concern to the department. During the 2013 calendar year, the State Capitol Police Department presented numerous programs to the legislative community. Examples of these and other programs for 2014 include:

- An “Emergency Procedures and Active Threat” training program provided to legislators and legislative employees. This program provides information on making quick, purposeful decisions in the event of a critical incident or intruder alert.
- A "Threatening and Harassment" training program available to legislators and legislative employees. This program is designed to heighten awareness on recognizing what constitutes threatening/harassing behavior or communication, how to report it, options available in dealing with it, and what the police can do to help you resolve the situation.
- A “Personal Safety” training program provided to legislators and legislative employees. This program provides necessary information to practice safe behaviors on and off the Capitol complex by incorporating safety and security practices into daily routines.
- A “Workplace Violence” training program for legislators and legislative employees to assist them in identifying, preventing and handling workplace violence.
- An “Identity Theft” awareness and prevention program available to legislators and legislative employees to help keep them from becoming victims of identity theft.
- An “Internet Safety” training program available to all legislators and legislative employees. This comprehensive program is designed to heighten awareness on protecting yourself and your family from internet and technology crimes.
- A program for reporting “Suspicious Activity” accessible to the legislative community on the intranet at <http://cgalites/cop/> or publicly on the State Capitol Police internet website at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/cop/>. The program can be utilized to report **non-active** suspicious activity in an open or anonymous way. Active suspicious activity should always be reported immediately to the State Capitol Police by telephoning 860-240-0240.
- An “Advisory Alert” program utilizing e-mail and mobile phone text messages to send out advisories to the legislative community concerning severe weather, traffic disruption, police and emergency services activity around the complex, and critical incidents.

- An “E-Mail Scam Alert” program which provides timely alerts and information to the legislative community about active email and phishing scams to prevent becoming a victim.
- An “Escort” program which provides safety and security escorts by uniformed State Capitol Police personnel to the garages and parking areas for any member of the legislative community requesting them. These escorts can be requested by contact with any State Capitol Police officer or Security Technician or by contacting the State Capitol Police Operations Center at 860-240-0240.
- An “Emergency Warden” program that trains legislative employees to assist in implementing emergency procedures and building evacuations during an emergency situation.
- An “Overnight Parking” program that allows legislators and legislative employees to utilize the legislative garages for overnight parking. This program can be utilized by contacting the State Capitol Police Operations Center and providing information on the make, model, color, and license plate of the vehicle and where it will be parked. By making this notification, you can avoid being subject to parking enforcement action.
- A “Bicycle Safety” program presented to children within the community. This program is presented by uniformed members of the State Capitol Police Bicycle Patrol Unit.
- A "Reading to Children" program presented by uniformed members of the State Capitol Police Department to children of the Capitol Child Development Center (CCDC). This program has officers reading to young children at the daycare center to foster positive interactions and an open relationship with the children.
- A “Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED)” training program available to all legislators and legislative employees to provide them with the skills to deal with cardiac arrest situations.
- A “Basic First Aid” training program available to all legislators and legislative employees to provide them with the skills to deal with basic first aid situations.

In our continuing effort to provide quality service and communication with the Legislative community, the State Capitol Police Department has created a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Using these programs will allow the SCPD to share information and events with the community in a timely manner using today's technology while allowing the community another avenue to communicate with the department. The pages are for information sharing purposes only. If you have a complaint or need assistance from the State Capitol Police Department you should contact us at 860-240-0240.

The State Capitol Police Department also created a new web site in 2014. The new website (<http://www.cga.ct.gov/cop>) is more innovative, user friendly, and contains useful information about the SCPD and the Capitol complex. The updated base page includes live time updates for alerts, notifications, special events, traffic delays, road closures, and safety issues impacting the Capitol community.

Additionally, the State Capitol Police Department maintains and operates “Emergency Call Boxes” which are located throughout the Capitol complex garages and parking areas. These call boxes can be utilized by the community in emergency or critical situations to directly communicate with the State Capitol Police Operations Center to summon immediate assistance. The department has completed a program of heightening the visibility and awareness of these emergency call boxes and fire alarm stations by installing them with highly visible colored lights. Blue lights point to emergency call boxes and red lights point to fire alarm stations. As you travel in and through these areas, please familiarize yourself with what these stations look like and where they are located so that you will be better prepared should the need arise to utilize them.

In our continuing mission to provide the safest environment for legislators, staff, and the nearly 150,000 annual visitors, including more than 25,000 school children, to the Capitol Complex, the Connecticut State Capitol Police Department will be deploying weapons detection equipment (metal detectors and package scanners) at the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building on August 28, 2014. The SCPD will be implementing a program that requires all visitors and deliveries to be screened. Anyone with a Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) issued ID/Access card will not be screened but will follow certain protocols for entering and exiting both buildings. Details of the program are as follows:

- LOB West (Main Entrance)
 - All visitors including school groups will be screened through a metal detector and all belongings will get screened with a package scanner.
 - Staff, legislators and anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card can utilize these entrances and will not be scanned. They can utilize their ID/access card to enter the buildings through optical turnstiles.
 - Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
- Capitol West Entrance
 - All visitors including school groups will be screened through a metal detector and all belongings will get screened with a package scanner.
 - Staff, legislators and anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card can utilize these entrances and will not be scanned. They can utilize their ID/access card to enter the buildings through optical turnstiles.
 - Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
- The LOB East (Terrace) Entrance
 - Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
 - Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
- LOB Skywalk Entrance
 - Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
 - Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
- Capitol South West Entrance
 - Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
 - Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.

- LOB Basement Garage Entrance
 - Anyone with LOB Basement parking privileges will be able to enter the building through security vestibules by using their card.
- All deliveries will be made to the loading dock located in the rear of the Legislative Office Building.
 - All packages will be scanned prior to delivery into the building.
 - Delivery personnel requiring access to the building will be screened through a metal detector.
 - Deliveries will no longer be accepted at the State Capitol Building.

The SCPD has added an explosives detection dog to its ranks as part of the screening process.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these programs, please contact Lieutenant Keith Zengel (phone: 860-240-5218 or e-mail: keith.zengel@cga.ct.gov) or Sergeant Jon Sylvester (phone: 860-240-5224 or e-mail: jonathan.sylvester@cga.ct.gov). Sergeant Sylvester conducts a community service open forum meeting for the legislative community on a quarterly basis. The meeting is open to all to address any concerns that have a bearing on law enforcement, safety and security within the Capitol complex and The Old State House. These meetings work to enhance communication between the State Capitol Police and the legislative community. Any concerns or problems that are voiced during this forum will be addressed. Notifications of the date, time, and location of these meetings will be sent out by e-mail. If you cannot attend the forum meetings, you can contact Sergeant Sylvester by phone or e-mail to express your concerns.

All members of the legislative community are reminded to wear their General Assembly identification cards whenever you are in the State Capitol/LOB complex to help ensure a safe and secure environment.

Individual awareness, cooperation, and involvement are critical to the success of any safety and security program. Everyone should assume responsibility for their own personal safety and the safety of others by attending these or similar programs, following established security procedures, keeping informed about security risks, and exercising safety-conscious behavior.

