



- News
- Austin News
- Texas News
- Nation/World
- Money/Business
- Investing
- Mexico News
- Austin Gas Prices
- Fitness/Health
- CrimeStoppers
- Politics
- Boating/Lakes
- Offbeat
- Your Pictures
- Restaurant Ratings
- Most Popular Stories
- Personal Technology
- Project Green
- ABC News at UT
- Desktop News
- myKVUE
- Technology
- KVUE Text Messaging

Local News

Comments 5 | Recommend 7

WATCH: APD goes online to alert public about crimes

06:21 PM CDT on Monday, June 15, 2009

By CLARA TUMA / KVUE News

Police now have a new way to alert the public about crimes within a matter of seconds. The alerts can be delivered via computer e-mail or cell phone texts.

"The members of the community are our force multiplier," said Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo. "If we can get 750,000 people to be connected, to stay in touch, and to be able to be part of the solution, to take ownership for public safety and leverage that, we're going to be a much safer community. So we're really excited."

The new program is citizenobserver.com, a national program designed to give officers help from the public in solving crimes.

"If we're looking for suspects, we can send that information out," Acevedo said. "If we're looking for witnesses we can send that information out. It is a tool that can help us communicate. The potential is only limited by public participation."

The program is free to those who sign up, but is costing the police department \$24,000 for two years -- about \$1,000 a month for the next 24 months.

Once connected, users can choose to be alerted via computer or cell phone about crime issues in every area of town, or just in specific neighborhoods.

"We want the community to be our eyes and ears and we want the community to be able to use technology to make it easier for them to communicate back with us," Acevedo said.

Members of the public can also text anonymous tips about crimes at APD at tip411. Police say the texts are welcome, but are not the place to report emergencies.

"If you see someone right now commit a crime or committing a bank robbery, we want you to call 911," Acevedo said.

Video

June 15th, 2009
KVUE's Clara Tuma reports
[More KVUE News Video](#)

View larger | E-mail clip | More video

Related links:

- [APD crime alerts](#)

Search Video: > GO >

- Print this story
- Email this story
- Digg It!
- Add RSS Feeds
- Bookmark

Advertisement

Odd addresses water on Wednesdays & Saturdays.
 Even addresses water on Thursdays & Sundays.



More headlines

- **WATCH:** Council members extend music permitting
- City hears input on future website redesign
- **WATCH:** Central Texans protest Iran's election
- Can the Plant Pal help you keep your plants watered?
- **WATCH:** Trailer food booms in Austin

More...

News, Photos & More

- KVUE on your Desktop:** Get traffic, radar and up-to-the-minute headlines on your desktop.
- Keep Up:** Have KVUE headlines delivered to your RSS reader.
- Upload Photos:** Send in your Austin area photos, pics of your favorite sports teams or even your pets.
- Find out what's happening:** Check our Events calendar to find events near you.

Most popular KVUE.com stories

FATHER'S DAY SALE

WE'RE GIVING YOU BONUS DOLLARS IN-STORE!

SHOP NOW FREE SHIPPING ONLINE