



## PRESS RELEASE

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**JOHN B. COOKE**  
SHERIFF

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 29, 2009**

### ***RURAL ATV THEFTS ON THE RISE***

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Greeley, Colo. – In the last seven months the Weld County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) has investigated 24 cases involving ATV thefts. Since mid July 10 of these cases were reported with the majority of them occurring east of Highway 85 between Weld County roads 40 and 48, and road 49 to the east.

This increase in thefts indicates a crime trend in ATV thefts over the past couple of months. Generally these crimes are between Highway 85 and Weld County road 49, south of road 48 but north of road 40. There have also been three occurrences in the Greeley area but two of those have also been east of Highway 85.

The WCSO is requesting any information you may have on these crimes, including information on vehicles or people that may seem suspicious or in areas where they do not belong. This can include encounters with people that seemed nervous or had an explanation for their activities that did not make sense.

In addition the WCSO asks you to keep the following suggestions in mind regarding your ATV's:

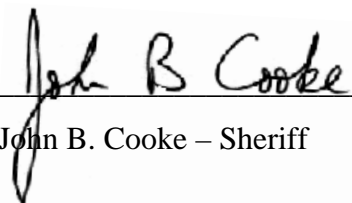
1. Physically secure the vehicle(s) when not in use.
2. Remove the keys and store them in a different location.
3. Record the VIN, serial number, or any personally applied markings and store them in a secure location.
4. Take photographs of your vehicles, including any personally applied markings, and store this information in a secure location.
5. Remove any firearms, items of value, or documentation that contains sensitive personal information prior to leaving the vehicle(s) unattended.
6. Take note of any suspicious vehicles or persons in and around the area and gather as much information as possible such as physical descriptions and license plate numbers.

7. Contact your neighbors when you will be gone for extended periods of time and ask them to watch for suspicious activity on or near your property.

8. Join or start a neighborhood watch program. For more information contact the Weld County Sheriff's Office.

The Weld County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers, is seeking the assistance of anyone with information on these crimes. Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers is offering up to a \$1000 reward in this case for information leading to the arrest and filing of charges.

Tipsters can call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), log on to [www.nococrimestoppers.com](http://www.nococrimestoppers.com) , or send a text message to CRIMES and begin the message with WCSO to share information while remaining anonymous.



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John B. Cooke – Sheriff

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