



State Capitol Police Department Crime Prevention and Safety Programs



2024

The State Capitol Police Department (SCPD) is committed to community outreach programs directed toward the legislative community 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. The State Capitol Police Department has presented numerous programs to the legislative community and looks forward to continuing to provide these services to the community. Examples of these programs are as follows.

- An “Emergency Procedures and Active Threats” training program provided to legislators, legislative employees, and lobbyists. This program provides information on making quick, purposeful decisions in the event of a critical incident or intruder alert.
- An “Intruder Alert” exercise that simulates an active armed intruder situation and tests the legislative community’s response to the situation.
- A “Personal Protection” 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.
- 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 <https://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 Operations Center.
- An “Advisory Alert” program utilizing e-mail, mobile phone text messages, and website alerts 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 “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 contacting any State Capitol Police officer or Security Technician or by contacting the State Capitol Police Operations Center.
- An “Emergency Warden” program that trains legislative employees to assist the SCPD during emergency situations and building evacuations.

- 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 "Coffee with a Cop" event sponsored by the SCPD which is modeled after a national program which brings police officers and the community together over coffee to discuss issues and learn more about each other. The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and the citizens they serve by having open and honest conversations. The event is relaxed, informal, and open for discussion about issues community members feel are important. Attending the Coffee with a Cop event is an easy way to get to know the men and women who serve the community and let them know about the issues that matter most to you.
- 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.

If you have a complaint or need assistance from the State Capitol Police Department you can contact the Operations Center at **860-240-0240** if using a **cell phone/outside line** or **extension 0240** if using an **in-house line/phone**. **Emergency assistance** can be requested at any time by dialing **911** on any **in-house line** which will go directly to the State Capitol Police Department Operations Center dispatcher for an immediate response. Depending on location, calls to 911 on any cell phone or outside line may go directly to the Hartford Police Department or State Police Troop H instead of the State Capitol Police Department Operations Center which may result in a delayed response by the SCPD.

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 heightened 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 more than 200,000 annual visitors to the Capitol Complex, the Connecticut State Capitol Police Department has deployed weapons detection equipment (metal detectors, package

scanners, and radiation detectors) at the State Capitol and Legislative Office Building. The SCPD maintains a program that requires all visitors and deliveries to be screened. As a result of utilizing the weapons detection system, the SCPD has identified or seized 1189 prohibited items in the last four years. 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.
- **The LOB East (Terrace) Entrance**
 - Anyone with a CGA issued ID/access card will be able to enter the building through a security vestibule 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.
- **LOB Basement Garage Lobby Entrance**
 - Anyone with LOB Basement parking privileges will be able to enter the building through a security vestibule by using their card.
 - Anyone with LOB basement parking privileges 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 this entrance and will not be scanned. They can utilize their ID/access card to enter the building through an optical turnstile.
 - 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 a security vestibule by using their card.
 - Anyone will be able to exit the building through this area.
- **Deliveries can be made to the loading dock located in the rear of the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol building through the west entrance.**
 - 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.
- **Employees who forget their CGA issued ID Access cards will be subject to security screening.**

The SCPD has an explosives detection canine named Bocci in its ranks as part of the screening process. Members of the legislative community will get a chance to meet Bocci and his handler, Officer First Class James Giansanti, and observe their skills during scheduled demonstrations for the community.

In our continuing effort to provide quality service and communication with the Legislative community, the State Capitol Police Department maintains a Facebook, Instagram, and a Twitter account. These programs 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 the Operations Center.

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

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 Corporal Erica O'Connor (phone: 860-240-0284 or e-mail: Erica.oconnor@cga.ct.gov). Corporal O'Connor conducts a community service open forum meeting for the legislative community on a quarterly basis. These meetings are 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 Boyle 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 they 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.



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