



Pueblo Police step up patrols, issue 50 to 75 tickets daily



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Drivers be warned. Police in both Colorado Springs and Pueblo are stepping up speed patrols, and in Pueblo officers say they're writing about 50 to 75 tickets a day.

Police are patrolling streets all across the City of Pueblo and officers say its to reduce the number of car crashes, not to fill quotas.

Often times when there's a car crash, shattered windshield, smoking engine, damage beyond repair, there's also a victim.

In a crash on 24th street in Pueblo Tuesday morning there were two victims. Jared Rodriguez's uncle and girlfriend. "She called me on the phone get over here right away all hysterical and I came and my uncle Joe was all bloody and she's just upset and hurt," said Rodriguez.

Police say the driver who caused the crash, ran a red light, but wasn't hurt. It's just one example of a growing number of accidents in Pueblo over the last several years, according to police. "The accident rate just seemed to increase somewhere between 10 to 15 percent every year," said Capt. Linda Grisham, who heads the Pueblo police traffic division.

So officers have stepped up patrols on Pueblo's busiest streets like Northern Ave., Bonforte Blvd., Prairie Ave., Pueblo Blvd., Elizabeth St. and Thatcher Ave. Grisham say police hand out an average of 50 to 75 tickets a day, mostly for speeding, stop light and seat belt violations.

Contrary to what some believe, Grisham says officers don't fill quotas. "That's the first thing that they think that we're trying to generate revenue for the city and it has to do with traffic safety. We have to slow people down, we have to make sure that they're obeying traffic stop signs, traffic lights--they cause accidents," said Grisham.

Grisham says through enforcement, they hope to reduce serious injury accidents, and save the physical pain caused by a crash, as well as the emotional pain family members and friends like Rodriguez feel. "Whoever's out there don't be driving too fast and watch for the other drivers, that's what I could say," said Rodriguez.

Police say they're going map the location of accidents in Pueblo, so they can see which areas they need to patrol more often.