



Cathryn L. Hazouri, Executive Director • Mark Silverstein, Legal Director

## PRESS ADVISORY

### ACLU of Colorado press conference

**Thursday August 21, 2008, 3:00 p.m.**

At a news conference at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday August 21, 2008, the ACLU of Colorado will respond to a bulletin—revealed today in the Rocky Mountain News—that the Denver Police Department reportedly issued last week to all police, sheriff, and fire department personnel.

A copy of the bulletin is attached.

The bulletin asks all law enforcement and fire department personnel to be on the lookout for, and to report “stockpiles and caches of supplies” that that could be used by “violent demonstrators” during the upcoming Democratic National Convention.

The bulletin lists various ordinarily-legal materials that officers are asked to report to both the Denver Police Department and the Colorado Intelligence Analysis Center (CIAC), Colorado’s “fusion center.”

The list includes such innocuous items as maps and bicycles.

ACLU Executive Director Cathryn Hazouri and ACLU Legal Director Mark Silverstein will speak.

A third speaker is a Denver activist and homeowner who, shortly after the bulletin was issued to Denver police, was subjected to police questioning about bricks being unloaded at her house. Although the bricks were acquired for masonry repairs, Denver police accused the activist of “stockpiling” the bricks for the DNC.

- WHAT: ACLU of Colorado news conference
- WHO: Cathryn Hazouri, ACLU Executive Director  
Mark Silverstein, ACLU Legal Director  
Denver activist and homeowner subjected to police questioning
- WHERE: 400 Corona Street, Denver
- WHEN: Thursday August 21, at 3:00 p.m.

The ACLU is a nationwide, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to defending and preserving the principles of the Bill of Rights through litigation, advocacy and public education. The ACLU Foundation of Colorado works to protect the rights of all Coloradans.

# DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

# SPECIAL BULLETIN



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ONLY**

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## First Responder Alert

The Denver Police Department is asking all police, sheriff, ambulance and fire personal to be on the lookout for stock piles and caches of supplies that could be used by violent demonstrators at the up coming Democratic National Convention, August 24-28, 2008. Officials predict anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 protesters. While most of the activity will be peaceful and take place in the City of Denver, past practices of demonstrators show that they will use outlying abandoned buildings, homes, camping facilities, secluded woods and farm fields to store their supplies.

History has shown that violent demonstrators collect and stock pile items or supplies at various locations to be used to further their cause at these types of events. Small amounts of these items would cause no concern but all first responders need to be alert for medium and large numbers of these items that seem out of place for its location. This could indicate the stock piling of supplies to be used against first responders. Some of these items include, but are not limited to:

**Shields:** both metal and plastic.

- Shields are used by protesters to "defend themselves" from the police.
- Violent protesters are using 1½ inch to 2 inch self tapping screws to secure the handles on these shields.
- The screws have been secured to the shields to act as an assault weapon against the officers.
- While not deadly, these forward facing screws have caused puncture and slashing wounds on officers and horses confronting violent protesters.
- Another tactic used by violent protesters is to sharpen the upper edges of the shields and then use them as a slashing weapon against the officers.

**Helmets:** Football, baseball, motorcycle and bicycle helmets are all used by violent protesters.

**Gas Masks:** Military surplus stores sell surplus masks.

**Chest protectors:** Baseball/ softball catcher protectors.

**Cases of Nails** (or coils of 10-12 ga. Wire): Used to make **caltrops**.

- Caltraps have been used for centuries as anti personal devices against foot soldiers.
- Today they are used mainly against vehicle traffic causing multiple flat tires, thereby blockading the street.
- **Caltraps** can also be used to throw at first responders and interfere with K-9's and horses.

**Protest sign handles:** Wood or metal.

- Check the diameter of the wood or metal used to hold up light paper, cloth or plastic signs.
- Heavy wooden handles in 5 foot lengths are perfect for swinging at first responders.
- Metal posts can also be used to hold improvised "tiki" torches to deliver flammable liquid on first responders.

**Hand held FRS radios:** These items are used by violent protesters for communications and are disposable.

**Maps:** Maps are frequently used by violent protester to plan direct actions against conventioners.

**Bicycles:** Bicycles are used to blockade sidewalks, streets and can be used to slow down responding emergency vehicles.

**Metal pipes or PVC piping:** These items in 10-20 foot lengths for use as tripods or shorter lengths for use as sleeping dragons to block intersections and building entrances.

**Chemicals:** These items can be used in balloons to throw/ shoot at first responders.

**Camping information:** Information concerning the camping, boarding or housing of potential violent protesters that have rented camping spaces, rented farms or land for the time period around the DNC. This would include information on possible violent protesters "squatting" in abandoned properties – houses, warehouses or buildings of any type.

The Denver Police Department is requesting that if any agency or officer discovers the above mentioned they please contact Det Bill Csikos at \_\_\_\_\_ or the CIAC at \_\_\_\_\_