
V. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

1. Law Enforcement Personnel (Table V-1)

Table V-1 shows a total of 112 personnel for the six county sheriffs, and an estimated 83 for city and town police departments. These include the sheriffs, deputies, police officers, dispatchers, and other staff, for a combined personnel total 195. Together they cover a population of 48,291, which averages out to about one staff per 247.6 persons. The staff of 83 serving the city portion of population for the communities listed (24,609), averages out to about 296.5 persons. For the sheriffs' staff of 112, the average is about 211.5: 1 to cover the balance of population outside the cities and towns (23,682).

When viewed by square miles, the combined personnel of 195 average about 42 sq/mi each. For the Saguache County Sheriff, the average is about 176.

2. Crime Reports (Table V-2)

Table V-2 provides a 2006 update on the number of offenses reported for 9 law enforcement departments in the region by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Valley's two largest cities of Alamosa and Monte Vista show the largest total number of offenses, but the total reported for the Alamosa PD (699) is almost 3 times greater than Monte Vista (241). Rape and arson are the most serious crimes, but in very small numbers.

From the table we see larceny/thefts as having the highest concentration of reported crimes, with an astounding 447 in this category for the Alamosa PD. Assaults have the next highest incidence, with firearms and other weapons also more common in Alamosa and Monte Vista.

3. Crime Rate Comparisons to Colorado Statewide (Table V-3)

Table V-3 from the previous CEDS compares the region to the State on rates per 1,000 population for offenses and arrests in 2001, which can also be used as a general reference in the current time period. Colorado's rate for total offenses was 11.81/1,000 vs 5.49 for the Valley, or about half the State's crime rate. The record on arrests was considerably closer, with 13.09 for the State vs 11.60 for the Valley on primary arrests, and 36.99 vs 31.95 on the other arrests category. Arrest rates were lower for drug violations, but considerably higher in the Valley for DUIs, with the highest in Monte Vista (24.51), Center (12.54), and Alamosa (11.81) compared to 7.95 in Colorado statewide.

While this rural region of Colorado is far from the level of crime impacts experienced in the larger cities, we have some indication of a moderate crime increase which deserves more study by the law enforcement community. A crime index reported on the city-data.com website for Alamosa showed an increase of 7.5% in the index numbers from 431.5 in 2002 to 463.8 in 2006. These compare with a US average of 239.8. From observation, we also note an increase in youth gang activity, vandalism, and domestic violence.

4. Jail Facilities (Table V-4)

With the exception of the Alamosa County jail, which increased capacity from 52-86 beds, most of the information in Table V-4 on jails and correctional facilities collected for the previous CEDS will still hold true. Jail capacities are inadequate to handle an increasing number of detainees, and the Alamosa SO is struggling to find beds for 94 inmates under its jurisdiction. The county's ballot initiative in November 2007 for an additional 1.0% sales tax to fund the construction, equipping, and remodeling of new jail facilities failed, and as a consequence other community programs were cut to meet a priority for public safety.

On a related issue, development of a private correctional facility is being pursued by some groups in Conejos County as an economic development measure, but this may not be supported by other county residents who believe this would clash with tourist and historic themes.

5. Fire Departments (Table V-5)

The 26 fire departments and government agencies in Table V-5 have a total of 400 staff and volunteers, 104 trucks, and a holding capacity exceeding 109,000 gallons. Saguache County fire departments have the largest number of fire fighters and trucks, followed by Conejos, Rio Grande, and Alamosa. Many of these departments are required to cover large distances to fight fires in their territories, and have agreements to assist others when needed.

Drought conditions and fires in the summer of 2002 required cooperation of every department in the Valley to assist with forest fires, the largest occurring near South Fork. A high level of cooperation and commitment was demonstrated in this effort.

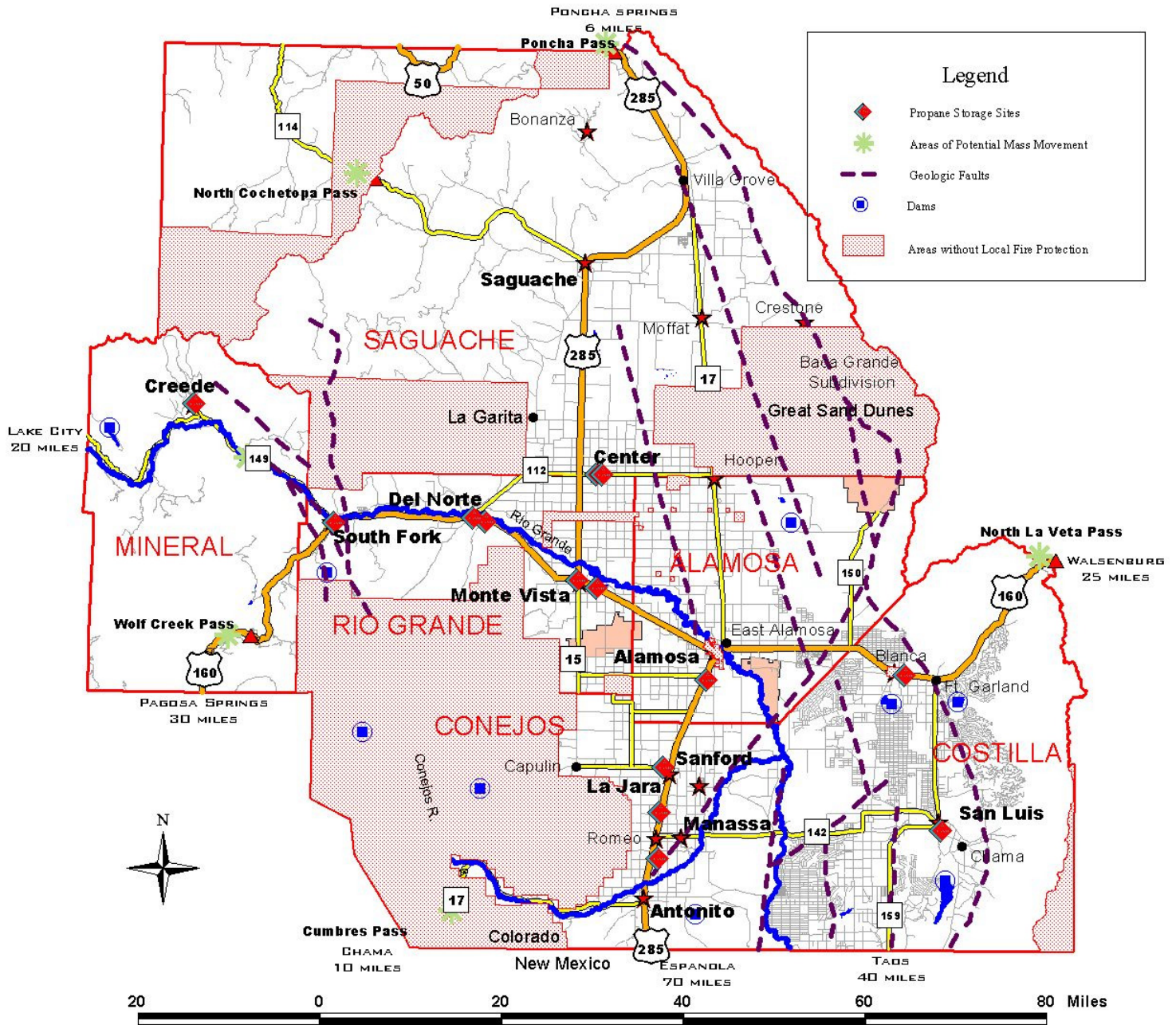
6. Emergency Services

A central emergency dispatch and response E-911 service is available in all six counties managed by an intergovernmental Authority Board. Line costs, equipment, and other costs are supported by a \$0.50 surcharge on telephone bills totaling about \$11,000/mo, or \$132,000/year.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided by the San Luis Valley Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC). Programming and funding under the Homeland Security Administration has been available in some locations. Wildfire is the largest emergency concern at this time. Map 21 shows location of geologic faults and other potential hazards.

Map 21

San Luis Valley Region – Hazard Zones



Source: San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority.

Table V-1
Law Enforcement Personnel, 2006

	Personnel*	July 2006 population	Square miles
<u>County Sheriffs</u>			
Alamosa	35	15,765	723
Conejos	14 ¹	8,587	1,287
Costilla	14	3,602	1,227
Mineral	7	966	876
Rio Grande	24	12,803	912
Saguache	18	6,568	3,168
San Luis Valley	98	48,291	8,193
<u>Municipal Police</u>			
Alamosa	30	8,490	
Adams State College	6	2,500	
Antonito	3 ¹	844	
La Jara	4 ¹	871	
Manassa	2 ¹	1,022	
Sanford	1 ¹	785	
Center	8	2,296	
Blanca	1 ¹	384	
Monte Vista	15	4,513	
Del Norte	6 ¹	1,624	
South Fork	3 ²	656	
Creede	4 ¹	424	
Total Selected Municipalities	83	24,609	
<u>Colorado State Patrol</u>			
Alamosa Headquarters	30 ¹	46,291	8,193
<u>U.S. Immigration Service</u>			
Alamosa	NA	48,291	8,193

Source: Personnel- Colorado Bureau of Investigation; *Crime in Colorado, 2006*.

1) March 2002 data from 2002 CEDS.

2) City-data.com, Detailed project, March 2002 data.

July 2006 population- State Demography Office, October 2007.

*Personnel Includes officers, dispatch, and clerical.

Table V-2
Crime Reports, 2006

Reported Offenses, January - December 2006						
	Alamosa County SO	Alamosa PD	Adams State PD	Costilla County SO ¹	Mineral County SO ²	Rio Grande County SO
Murder/ Manslaughter						
Negligent Manslaughter						
Forcible Rape	1	6	1	1		
Attempted Rape						
Robbery, Firearm		3				
" Knife						
" Other Weapon						
" Strong-arm		3				
Assaults, Firearm	1	14		3		2
" Knife		9		1		
" Other Weapon	2	15		1		1
" Hands/Fist/Feet	4	12	1	1	2	1
" Other	15	98	2	3		10
Burglary, Forced Entry	6	38	4	3		8
" Unlawful Entry	8	33	5	5		11
" Attempted		2				
Larceny/ Theft	50	447	41	10	2	9
Motor Vehicle Theft, Auto		17		2	1	
" Truck						
" Other		1				2
Arson	2	1		1		1
Total	89	699	54	31	5	45

	Monte Vista PD	Saguache County SO	Center PD
Murder/ Manslaughter			
Negligent Manslaughter			
Forcible Rape	2		
Attempted Rape			
Robbery, Firearm			
" Knife			
" Other Weapon			
" Strongarm			
Robbery, Firearm			
" Knife			
" Other Weapon			
" Strong-arm			
Assaults, Firearm	4	1	
" Knife	7		
" Other Weapon	3	1	
" Hands/Fist/Feet	1	1	2
" Other	59	13	18
Burglary, Forced Entry	19	1	1
" Unlawful Entry	18		2
" Attempted	2	6	
Larceny/ Theft	119	16	17
Motor Vehicle Theft, Auto	3		1
" Truck			1
" Other	3		
Arson	1	1	
Total	241	40	42

Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in Colorado, 2006*. 1) No. months reported = 9. 2) No. months reported = 5.
SO= Sheriff's Office PD= Police Department

**Table V-3
Offenses and Arrests - Rate per 1,000 Population, 2001**

	Adams State College PD	Alamosa PD	Alamosa County SO	Center PD	Costilla County SO	Mineral County SO	Monte Vista PD	Rio Grande County SO	Saguache County SO	SLV Total Reported	Colorado
Census 2000	2,575	7,960	14,966	2,392	8,400	3,663	4,529	12,413	5,917	45,359	4,301,261
Major Offenses											
Total Number	1.94	0.25	0.13	10.45	3.93	3.00	11.48	3.06	2.03	5.49	11.81
Murder/Manslaughter	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03
Forcible Rape	0.00	0.25	0.13	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.22	0.08	0.17	0.26	0.40
Robbery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.76
Burglary	1.55	0.00	0.00	8.78	3.69	3.00	9.72	2.58	1.52	4.34	6.12
Motor Vehicle Theft	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.12	0.00	1.10	0.40	0.34	0.75	4.50
Other Reported Offenses											
Total Number	22.52	7.54	4.01	17.98	7.98	1.09	48.36	3.38	7.27	20.99	
Total Number of Agg. Assaults	1.94	4.02	2.14	10.45	2.98	0.00	19.65	0.97	2.54	6.81	
Larceny	19.81	3.52	1.87	7.53	5.00	1.09	28.70	2.34	4.73	14.04	
Arson	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.13	
Primary Arrests											
Total Number (adult)	3.11	12.31	6.55	16.72	4.40	1.09	32.68	0.81	7.27	11.60	13.09
(juvenile)	0.39	0.88	0.47	2.09	0.24	0.00	5.52	0.24	0.85	1.63	1.96
Murder (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Forcible Rape (adult)	0.00	0.25	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.09
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.02	0.02
Robbery (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.15
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Burglary (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.12	0.00	1.55	0.16	0.17	0.42	0.43
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.28
Motor Vehicle Theft (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.32
(juvenile)	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.09	0.28
Weapon Violations (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.12	0.00	0.44	0.08	0.00	0.24	0.44
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.17	0.11	0.17
Drug Violations (adult)	0.00	0.25	0.13	1.25	0.12	0.00	5.96	0.48	2.03	1.54	3.67
(juvenile)	0.00	0.50	0.27	0.84	0.00	0.00	1.32	0.24	0.17	0.55	0.95
DUI (adult)	3.11	11.81	6.28	12.54	4.05	1.09	24.51	0.08	5.07	9.06	7.95
(juvenile)	0.00	0.38	0.20	0.84	0.12	0.00	2.43	0.00	0.17	0.55	0.19
Other Arrests											
Total Number (adult)	3.11	26.88	14.30	53.09	9.52	3.28	61.16	4.27	12.84	31.95	36.99
(juvenile)	0.00	3.77	2.00	10.45	0.95	0.27	28.70	0.32	1.69	9.44	10.72
Agg. Assaults (adult)	0.78	0.00	0.00	3.34	1.67	0.00	4.20	0.40	0.17	1.41	1.05
(juvenile)	0.00	0.13	0.07	0.42	0.12	0.00	0.44	0.08	0.17	0.35	0.20
Larceny (adult)	0.00	0.38	0.20	0.84	0.36	0.82	4.86	0.16	0.34	2.76	3.93
(juvenile)	0.00	0.13	0.07	1.67	0.00	0.00	5.52	0.16	0.00	1.98	2.01
Other Assaults (adult)	0.00	2.64	1.40	2.09	0.36	0.00	11.70	0.40	0.68	3.17	4.54
(juvenile)	0.00	0.38	0.20	0.42	0.00	0.00	3.31	0.00	0.51	0.68	0.88
Stolen Property (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.14
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Vandalism (adult)	0.39	0.88	0.47	1.25	0.24	0.82	1.99	0.16	0.00	1.46	1.16
(juvenile)	0.00	0.13	0.07	0.42	0.12	0.00	1.10	0.08	0.00	0.33	0.54
Liquor Law Violations (adult)	0.00	2.51	1.34	3.76	1.79	0.00	12.14	0.00	1.69	3.31	3.60
(juvenile)	0.00	0.50	0.27	1.25	0.60	0.00	12.59	0.00	0.34	2.20	1.17
Drunkenness (adult)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	3.29
(juvenile)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01

Sources: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, 2002.
Population: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
Rates calculated by SLV Development Resources Group.
SO = Sheriff's Office; PD = Police Department.

Table V-4

Jail Facilities

<u>County Jails</u>	<u>Beds</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Expansion plans</u>
Alamosa	52	100-200%	Yes
Conejos	7	100%	On hold
Costilla	12	100%	Yes
Mineral*	3		No
Rio Grande**	16	150-200%	Yes, phase 2
Saguache	211	100%+	No

* Mineral County has 24/hr back-up, not a certified jail. Adult prisoners are transferred to Saguache and juveniles to Alamosa.

** Rio Grande sends women prisoners to Saguache and juveniles to Alamosa.

City Jails

Monte Vista	12		No
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Alcohol Offender Detention and Treatment

Crossroads Managed Care Systems

Alamosa	10	100% weekends 90-100% summers 30-50% winters	No
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Counseling at Alamosa, Antonito, Center, Del Norte, La Jara, Monte Vista, and San Luis.

Source: Staff contacts and interviews, GIS/GPS Authority and DRG, April 2002.

Table V-5

Fire Department Personnel and Equipment, 2007

<u>Fire Department/Location</u>	<u>Staff/volunteers</u>	<u>Trucks</u>	
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Gallons (total all trucks)</u>
<u>Alamosa</u>			
Alamosa	30	3	
Great Sand Dunes	10	2	410
Mosca/Hooper	24	6	5,310
Zapata Homeowners Assoc	-	1	
<u>Conejos</u>			
Antonito	12	6	2,250
Carmel	12	2	2,000
Capulin	10	2	3,450
Conejos Peak Ranger Dist	5	1	
Fox Creek	6		
La Jara	15	2	750
Manassa	15	2	1,500
Romeo	10	3	1,750
Sanford	20	4	2,250
<u>Costilla</u>			
Blanca	5	1	500
Fort Garland	15	4	4,950
Garcia	6	1	250
San Luis	15	2	3,250
<u>Mineral</u>			
Mineral County	25	6	6,100
<u>Rio Grande</u>			
Del Norte	30	8	9,000
Monte Vista	20	8	6,750
South Fork	15	8	5,750
<u>Saguache</u>			
Center	30	5	5,700
Crestone	12	3	5,425
Moffat	14	4	3,975
Villa Grove/Bonanza	16	2	1,900
Saguache	24	3	7,050

Source: Info obtained by Joe Montano and SLV RETAC members, January 2008.