



TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS

HISTORY & OVERVIEW

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LESSON OBJECTIVES

- History and Origin of Crime Stoppers
- Texas Crime Stoppers Council
- Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division

CRIME STOPPERS HISTORY & OVERVIEW



ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 1976

- Crime Stoppers is the brainchild of Albuquerque, New Mexico police detective, **Greg MacAleese**.
- MacAleese was assigned to investigate a 1976 robbery gone afoul that resulted in the senseless shooting of a young part-time employee of a gas station. This crime occurred at dusk, in a well-travelled neighborhood in Albuquerque, leading MacAleese to believe that someone, other than the killers, must have knowledge concerning this homicide.

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APATHY & FEAR

- Afraid of media exposure
- Afraid of the courtroom experience
- Leave it up to someone else
- Afraid of retaliation



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COUNTERING APATHY & FEAR

Cash to overcome apathy



Anonymity to overcome fears



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CRIME STOPPERS TRIAD



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THE CONCEPT SPREAD

- Central Florida Crime Watch's six county program began in July 1977 and recovered \$4,000,000 in stolen property it's first year
- In September, 1978, programs were created in:
 - Durango, Colorado
 - El Paso, Texas
- By 1979, 28 programs were operating in the United States

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TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS COUNCIL

In **June 1981**, the 67th Texas Legislature created the Texas Crime Stoppers Council, which consists of five members appointed by the Governor and are approved by the Senate. Three Council members must have participated in a local Crime Stoppers organization.

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TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS: 1989

TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS CERTIFICATION

In 1989 during the 71st Legislature, Governor Bill Clements signed Senate Bill 85 and Senate Bill 149. These laws charge the Council with certifying all Texas Crime Stoppers organizations that plan to receive and expend court generated fees comply with state statutory requirements.

TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS CONFERENCE

On April 19-21, 1989, the first Texas Crime Stoppers Conference was held in Austin, Texas.

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TEXAS CRIME STOPPERS COUNCIL



PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:

- **Promoting** local Crime Stoppers organizations.
- **Encouraging** the formation of new organizations both in communities and on campuses.
- **Advising & Assisting** Crime Stoppers organizations.
- **Certifying** that organizations comply with state statutory requirements.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

- Assists organizations achieve & maintain certification
- Manages Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund grants
- Provides training, technical assistance, & community outreach
- Coordinates annual Texas Crime Stoppers conferences
- Oversees the annual Texas' Best Crime Stoppers awards
- Oversees statistical data

www.thetexascrimestoppers.org

CRIME STOPPERS HISTORY & OVERVIEW



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Texas 10 Most Wanted Sex Offenders & Fugitives

In 2015, these two programs lead to the apprehension of 30 fugitives and sex offenders and \$79,000 in rewards paid

Texas Crime Stoppers Stash House Rewards

Rewards of up to \$2,500 for tips leading to the identification of stash houses used in transnational crimes.

www.dps.texas.gov

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Fallen Hero Reward – Texas Remembers Program

Created in 2016, is designed to help generate new investigative leads in unresolved or cold cases involving a Texas law enforcement officer or first responder who was murdered or suffered an incapacitating injury while in the line of duty or while acting in an official capacity.

Specific Incident Rewards

- \$50,000 reward – 2008 Texas Governor’s Mansion.
- \$100,000 reward – 2014 Kaufman County, Texas
- \$10,000 – 2015 Texas Capitol Fire

www.dps.texas.gov

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SUMMARY

- Crime Stoppers began on **September 8, 1976**, in **Albuquerque, New Mexico**.
- All Crime Stoppers programs are partnerships formed by **citizens, law enforcement, and media** working together toward a common goal: the reduction of crime and the arrest and conviction of criminals and fugitives.
- The Texas Crime Stoppers Council promotes, encourages, advises, assists, and certifies Texas Crime Stoppers organizations.
- The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division manages organization certification, provides community outreach, manages Crime Stoppers Assistance Fund grants, and provides Crime Stoppers organizations training, assistance, and technical support.
