

How does **Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc.** operate?

Ever wondered how Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. operates?

Have you ever questioned how anonymous you really are if you call in a tip?

Well here is how it all works, in a brief nutshell.

You have information relative to a crime. You decide to call **566-TIPS (8477)** with information. Your call is received in our office right here in El Paso but is automatically forwarded to a call center in La Porte, TX. The operator there will take all the information, enter it into a computer database and at the same time give you an ID number. DON'T lose that number. If you do, you will lose your connection to the case. Since that is the only way to identify the case, we will not be able to follow up with any other information. You can then use that number to contact our local office if you have additional information you'd like to add to the investigation.

Once our office receives the tip from the database, it will then be forwarded to the appropriate department (Police, Sheriff, Highway Patrol, School District, Detectives, etc.) who will be working that particular case. As progress is made, it will be noted to the file and you can check the status of the case by using your ID number. Once the case is solved, a board of directors will discuss the payment amount for each particular tip and award a reward amount. Once a cash reward is approved, the next time you follow-up on your tip, you will be given another unique private ID number and instructed how to receive your reward. In most cases, all you have to do is go to a prearranged bank, give the teller (in the drive-through) your reward ID number on a slip of paper, and they will in turn give you your CASH reward.

Because of the use of unique ID numbers and the fact that there is no collection of personal information, it is virtually impossible to trace the source of the tip. Secondly, Texas Government code (414.008) protects the information given to Crime Stoppers, making it privileged and ensuring your anonymity.

It is also important to understand that Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. is a non-profit entity and does not work for or under any law enforcement entity. We are totally independent of any and all law enforcement agencies. We do not conduct any investigative work. All we do is collect anonymous tip information and pass it along to the appropriate agency. If the tip information leads to an arrest, we then pay out a reward for that information. Because we are a non-profit agency, **Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc.** is always in need of your support. If you'd like to send in a tax-deductible donation to help with the fight against crime, you can do so by sending in your donation to Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. PO Box 33, El Paso, TX 79940.

Now you may ask how Crime Stoppers of El Paso, Inc. is funded? We operate completely from donations and grants. Our primary funding base comes from donations from the citizens and businesses in the El Paso area. Those donations cover tip rewards, office expenses, phones, etc. NO salaries, rents, or vehicle expenses come out of your donations.



www.crimestoppersofelpaso.org