


**M**aking neighborhoods safer for children is the goal of the McGruff Truck and McGruff House crime-prevention programs. Both programs use the image of McGruff, the well-known crime-fighting dog, to identify appropriate places children can turn for help.


McGruff House began in Utah in 1982 and is now operating in most states. It teaches children to recognize qualified houses displaying a McGruff House sign as places they can turn for help in self-care situations. McGruff House is coordinated in Utah by the Utah Council for Crime Prevention. It is facilitated on a national level by the National McGruff House Network in conjunction with the National Crime Prevention Council.

McGruff Truck, an extension of the McGruff House program, began in 1988 as a partnership between Questar Gas (formerly, Mountain Fuel) and the Utah Council for Crime Prevention. It uses decals picturing McGruff to identify Questar Gas, US West and Utah Power vehicles and their drivers as sources of help.

The project's motto, "We'll call for help," clearly states its purpose. The McGruff Truck driver or McGruff House occupant does not act as a policeman or paramedic. He or she simply calls for whatever help is needed.


 When should a child use a McGruff Truck or McGruff House?

**A:** McGruff Trucks and McGruff Houses should be used only in times of distress, such as when a child is frightened, someone is hurt, or if someone is trying to molest or abduct a child. The McGruff Truck driver's or McGruff House occupant's function is to call for help, and to not solve the child's problem or provide transportation.

 How can children identify McGruff Trucks or McGruff Houses?


**A:** McGruff Trucks are identified by two markings: the McGruff Truck decals on the passenger's side of the front and back bumpers and by the participating company's logo. Children are shown these logos in their classrooms so they will be familiar with those that are authorized as McGruff Trucks.



 How can children get help from a McGruff Truck or McGruff House?

**A:** If a child sees a McGruff Truck and needs help, he/she is to wave both arms in the air, jump up and down and yell. Children should never run into the street to get help. If the McGruff Truck driver is on the other side of the street, the child is to wait where he/she is, and the driver will come to him/her.

In the case of a McGruff House, a child would simply knock on the door or ring the doorbell.

 What is a McGruff Truck driver or McGruff House occupant expected to do?

**A:** When a child approaches a McGruff Truck driver for help, the driver will:

- Stop, go to the child
- Find out what the problem is
- Reassure the child if he/she is frightened

- Call the company's dispatcher or the appropriate public-safety agency and
  - Describe the situation, location and condition of the child;
  - Describe any vehicles involved; and
  - Identify the type of help needed
- Stay with the child until help arrives

A McGruff Truck driver will not:

- Administer first aid except in extreme emergencies
- Administer medicines of any kind
- Provide transportation
- Act as a peacekeeper or law enforcement official
- Make guarantees for the child's personal safety
- Approach a child unless he/she clearly is in trouble.

Similarly, a McGruff House occupant would identify the problem and help needed, then call for appropriate assistance.

**F**or information about the McGruff House and McGruff Truck programs, contact the Utah Council for Crime Prevention, 166 E. Cleveland Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84115, (801) 486-8691; or the National McGruff House Network, 1879 S. Main St., Salt Lake City, UT 84115, (801) 486-8768.



# McGruff Truck and McGruff House

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*Note: The national McGruff "Take a bite out of crime" public education campaign is largely funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and is managed by the National Crime Prevention Council on behalf of the Crime Prevention Coalition. "McGruff House" and "McGruff Truck" are registered trademarks.*

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## Making Neighborhoods Safer for Kids

**QUESTAR**  
Gas