



Spokane County WA SO

Transparency Portal

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Overview

The Spokane County Sheriff's Office (SO) uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. Spokane County SO utilizes retroactive search to solve crimes after they've occurred. Additionally, Spokane County SO utilizes real time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals. In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place, they have made the below policies and usage statistics available to the public.

Policies



What's Detected

License Plates, Vehicles



What's Not Detected

Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race



Acceptable Use Policy

Data is used for law enforcement purposes only. Data is owned by Spokane County WA SO and is never sold to 3rd parties.



Prohibited Uses

Traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion) or personal use.



System Access History

Flock data is only retained for 30 days. However, an audit trail of the users who accessed the system is stored indefinitely.



Hotlist Policy

Hotlist hits (i.e., stolen vehicles, missing persons, etc.) are required to be human verified prior to action.

Usage



Data retention (in days)

30 days



Number of SCSO-Owned Cameras

25



Hotlists Alerted On

NCIC, NCMEC Amber Alert



Vehicles Detected in the Last 30 Days

412,217



Hotlist Hits in the Last 30 Days

262

flock safety

About Flock Safety

Frequently Asked Questions

What is ALPR?

Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) have long helped law enforcement solve crimes. ALPRs capture computer-readable images of license plates, allowing law enforcement agencies to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or cars driven by people suspected of being involved in criminal activities.

The information by ALPR cameras can help determine whether a vehicle was at the crime scene and discover cars that may be associated with each other. Law enforcement agencies can choose to share their information with other agencies. The cameras can also integrate data from national or state crime databases to provide realtime alerts when a vehicle associated with a known suspect or a stolen vehicle passes the camera.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, when employed ethically and objectively, ALPRs are an effective force-multiplying tool for law enforcement. A 2011 study by the Police Executive Research Forum concluded that ALPRs used by Mesa, Ariz., Police resulted in “nearly three times as many ‘hits’ for stolen vehicles, and twice as many vehicle recoveries.”

Flock Safety communities have reported overall crime reductions of over 70 percent after a period of time utilizing the ALPR system. In some areas, that included a 60 percent-plus reduction in non-residential burglaries, an 80 percent reduction in residential burglary, and a 40 percent-plus reduction in robberies.

What is Flock Safety?

Flock Safety is a public safety operating system that helps cities, businesses, schools, and law enforcement in thousands of communities work together to stop crime, protect privacy, and mitigate bias. We build hardware and write software that captures the objective evidence police need to solve crimes. Thousands of communities across the country use our proprietary devices and cloud-based software to help law enforcement solve upwards of 5 percent of all reported crime in America.

How does Flock Safety's ALPR help promote transparency and objectivity in policing?

Flock Safety technology is purpose-built to remove human bias from crime-solving. The ALPR cameras and machine learning technology are engineered to capture vehicle characteristics, types, and license plates, which are then checked against state and federal records to ensure accuracy and minimize errors.

Because **license plate readers do not collect information on who is driving or riding in the vehicle**, it is not considered Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Our technology does not capture images of pedestrians or passersby. **The ALPR cameras take still images of cars passing through the lens (not video) and cannot follow or track vehicles once they leave the camera's view.**

Flock Safety will never record names, phone numbers, or addresses and doesn't mark specific locations where people have been. There is no capability in the system to mark or annotate the locations of passersby.

Flock Safety is committed to building technology, tools, and a team that treats all people equitably, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, background, and orientation. We believe that everyone has a right to public safety.

Additional Information about FLOCK can be found on their website at www.flocksafety.com.