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Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Jan-Feb 2016

Sign up for the disaster registry

Would you or a loved one need special help during an emergency?

You should sign up for the disaster registry if you would:

- Need outside help to safely leave your home during a disaster.
- Be in jeopardy if you stayed in your home, without assistance, for three days.
- Need special notification about the need for evacuation, due to impairment.

The Disaster Registry is a database of names, locations, and needs of people who need special assistance during an emergency. This database is available to fire, police, and rescue workers. Being on the Disaster Registry does not guarantee that you'll get help first in a disaster. There are so many needs during a disaster that our firefighters and police can't help everyone at once. But if your name is in the Disaster Registry, they will know of your need for special assistance. Even if you are on the Disaster Registry, you should call 911 if you find yourself in a life-threatening situation. Visit www.rvcog.org to download an application or apply online. For more information, contact the Rogue Valley Council of Governments at 541-664-6674. Once an application has been received, it may take three months or more for the information to be available to rescue workers.

Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

Contact Information:

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

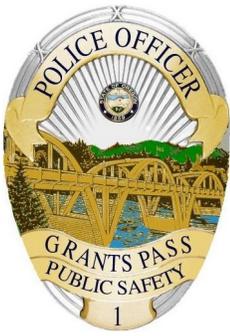
Fire

541-450-6200

City Hall

541-450-6000





Car Seat Safety

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to help educate parents on car seat laws and provide information that may be helpful in keeping their children safe in a vehicle. Each state creates laws to ensure children are safe while traveling in a vehicle. Children at every age have different requirements based on how they are physically developing and their abilities. Each child is different, which is why Oregon Law is based on both age and size. We want to make sure that in the event a crash occurs, your children are safe and secure in their seats.

Oregon Law requires different car seats and different positions based on crash studies and recommendations from medical professionals:

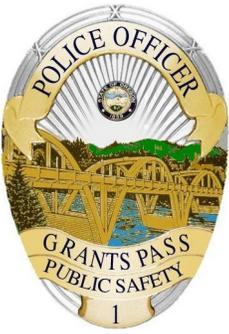
- Birth up to one year: Rear facing with harness until 1 year and 20 lbs. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends rear facing until 2 years old.
- Over 1 year: Forward facing car seat with harness until 40 lbs.
- Over 40 lbs: Required to use a booster seat until they reach 4 ft 9 in tall, or they turn 8 years old.

When a child weighs less than 40 lbs and is in a car seat with a harness, they are required to have the harness retainer clip at the armpit level. The straps should not be twisted and should fit snug (cannot pinch any slack). This may seem tight to you, but it is not. If there is any slack it will leave a gap that can create force in a crash that can cause injury. Do not leave bulky clothes (jackets) on when you secure the child in their seat. This will leave a gap between the harness and the child.

Children weighing more than 40 lbs, who are under 4'9" or 8 years old, are required to be in a booster seat. The seat belt must have a lap and shoulder belt to ensure their safety. The shoulder belt should fit across the center of their chest and not down lower or up in their neck. The lap belt must fit across the upper thighs. Any child under the age of 13 should sit in the back seat and away from front impact air bags.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has employees that are trained car seat technicians who would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you have about your current car seat installation or child fit. Contact the Parkway Public Safety Station at 541-450-6200 to schedule a time with a technician.

For more tips or information regarding safety in your home, please contact the Fire Prevention Office at 541-450-6200.



Burglary Prevention

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety wants to make citizens aware that residential burglaries can occur in the day time as well as at night and provide prevention tips to avoid becoming a victim.

- Make your home look occupied while you are away. Burglars want easy targets, and are more likely to move on to another area if it appears the home is occupied.
- Lock all doors and outside windows before you leave the house.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable; install additional locking devices to prevent easy entry.
- Keep your garage door locked and closed.
- Deadbolt locks make it more difficult for a burglar to break into a house.
- Don't leave anything out in the open that is valuable or appears valuable. If you do, your residence will look more appealing to burglars.
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed so they cannot be used as hiding places for burglars.
- Never leave spare keys in easy hiding places around your house (under doormats, planters, etc.).
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. Working with your neighbors will improve security and reduce your risk of becoming a victim.
- Don't leave anything valuable in your vehicle; take items with you. It takes only a moment to reach inside a vehicle or break a window.
- Always lock your vehicle and keep your windows rolled up. An unlocked vehicle is an easy target for thieves, even when it is parked in your driveway.
- Park in well lit areas.
- Don't leave anything in plain view in your vehicle that appears to be valuable or contain valuable items (backpacks, bags, etc). Thieves will break a window to take a backpack, even if it doesn't have anything valuable in it. They don't know it isn't valuable.
- If you need to put items in your trunk, do so before you reach your destination. This will decrease the likelihood that a thief sees you put something valuable in your trunk.
- Report any suspicious activity that you see in parking lots or in your neighborhood.

If you have any questions or want to start a Neighborhood Watch Group, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.