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Neighborhood Watch Newsletter May/June 2015

National Police Memorial Week is May 10th through the 16th. The memorial to honor local officers who has lost their lives will be on Tuesday May 12th at 10 am.

May 4th is International Firefighter Day

Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

Animals Left in Vehicles

As the hot summer months approach, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety will see an increase in calls regarding dogs being left in vehicles. It takes only minutes for a dog left in a vehicle on a warm day to start showing signs of heatstroke and suffocation, which can lead to death. Temperatures inside a vehicle can be more than 10 to 15 degrees hotter if the vehicle is parked in the shade, and can double the outside temperature if it is parked in the sun. Rolling windows down or parking in the shade isn't the answer since temperatures can still be dangerous. Also if the window is left down too far the dog may escape.

Contact Information:

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

City Hall

541-450-6000

- Leave your dog at home on warm days. You don't want to take the chance of injury or death to your pet.
- If you see signs of heat exhaustion (restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, fever, vomiting, lack of coordination) take the dog to the shade, an air conditioned area or a veterinarian.
- If you see a dog left in a vehicle on a hot day, document the location, car make, model, color and license plate number. Contact the police department and advise them of the information.



If you have any questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.

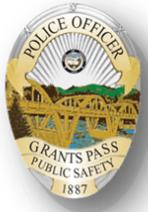


Child Safety Information

In 2014, 31 children died from being left in hot cars nationwide. This is caused by our daily routines and distractions that cause people to forget or mistakenly leave their children unattended in vehicles. Children are at a greater risk of death because their body heats up three to five times faster than an adult. Not all deaths were caused by children being left unattended in cars, but also from kids locking themselves in vehicles to play. We need to prevent these tragedies from reaching our community by informing parents of the danger and the public of what their response should be.

- Dial 911 immediately if you see a child left in a vehicle.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even if you leave the windows open. When the outside temperature is 101 degrees, the inside temperature of a vehicle reaches 140 degrees.
- Never leave your child in a running vehicle. It only takes a moment for the child to put the vehicle out of park or for someone to steal your vehicle with the child in it.
- Place your cell phone, purse, brief case, gym bag, whatever you are going to carry in with you, in the back seat on the floor in front of your child. This will remind you that your child is back there when you reach back to get your items.
- Set your cell phone reminder to make sure you dropped your child off at daycare.
- Have a pre-plan with your daycare so that they will call you if your child is late. If your schedule changes, make sure your daycare provider is aware.
- To prevent children from being locked in a trunk, lock all your doors and trunk when everyone has exited the vehicle. Keep keys out of your children's reach.
- If your child is missing, check your vehicle and trunk first.
- Teach your children that vehicles are never to be used as a play area.

If you have any questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.



May is Oregon Wildfire Awareness Month, and we are spreading the word on ways to help prevent human-caused wildfires, as well as how to protect a home in the event a fire encroaches. Oregon's record-low snow-pack and dry spring have fire officials concerned about drought and the potential for the driest summer wildfire conditions in 25 years.

In a large fire event, firefighters may not have the capacity or resources to defend every home. The true culprits are a wildfire's hot embers. They can travel through the air, a mile or more ahead of a wildfire, and come to rest in the leaf debris on the roof or in flammable plants in the landscaping where they eventually smolder and ignite. "You can't control where these embers land, but you can control what happens when they do."

CLEAN

The best place to start is with the house and the first 30 feet that extends from the outermost part of the house, including detached garages and sheds. The roof is the most vulnerable part of the home. Regularly clear leaves or needles from the roof and gutters, and cut back tree limbs that overhang the roof.

CLEAR

Remove any combustible debris, such as leaves, branches, and gas or paint cans that tend to collect near the home, under stairs, decks, and porches. Also important: Relocate firewood at least 30 feet from the home or store it in an enclosed shed.

LANDSCAPE

Landscaping should contain low-growing, fire-resistant plants that are spaced carefully so as not to lead a fire to the home. Rake leaves and debris from the yard, mow grass, prune trees up from the ground, and keep plants well watered to prevent a surface fire from climbing into the crowns and carrying flames from trees to the house. Properly placed deciduous trees can actually protect a home by blocking a wildfire's intense heat. Fuel breaks, such as driveways, gravel walkways, and green lawns can stop the advance of a fire by starving it of flammable vegetation.

Wildfire does not have to consume everything in its path. The more a homeowner can accomplish before fire season, the more it will improve a home's chances of surviving a wildfire. More tips on protecting your home can be found at www.GrantsPassFirewise.org



NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

The first week of May

"Arson is NOT a Victimless Crime"

Grants Pass Fire Rescue reminds you that National Arson Awareness Week is the first week of May. Arson is not a victimless crime. Arson fires kill over 500 civilians each year and cause two billion dollars in property damage. How would you picture an arsonist? A dangerous-looking, shifty-eyed criminal...someone with an axe to grind? Maybe someone with little regard for human life, or someone with a pattern of violent behavior? Would you ever imagine a child?

According to the FBI, more than 50% of those arrested for setting arson fires are juveniles. In fact, juvenile arson is the fastest growing teen and pre-teen crime in the country. It has become America's hidden epidemic. More than 700 arson fires a day are set in the United States by people under the age of 18.

Tragically, many children die in the very fires they caused. According to the National Fire Protection Association, child-set fires account for the deaths of 300 children and another 3,000 are injured every year. If left unaddressed, 80% of juvenile firesetters will continue to repeat their dangerous actions. Education and intervention programs are the key to preventing juvenile firesetting. Grants Pass Fire Rescue offers programs for educators as well as confidential services for families seeking assistance.

Your help is needed to reduce the risk of arson in our community. If you suspect that someone you know has set a fire or experiments with fire, please contact the Fire Prevention Office. Fire experimentation is not "just a natural phase" that every young person goes through. It can be deadly. Intervention and education can make a difference.

If you would like more information on how you can help prevent arson or about youth education programs, please contact the Fire Prevention Office at 541-450-6200.