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Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Jan-Feb 2016

Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

Contact Information:

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

City Hall

541-450-6000



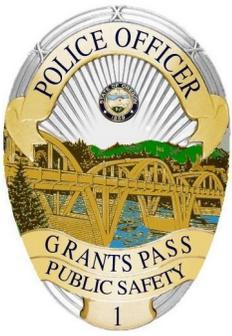
Tax Fraud Scam

It's that time of year again. As citizens start filing for their taxes, they may receive a call from subjects claiming to be the IRS. They may make threats that you will be arrested or lose your drivers license if you do not pay the taxes you owe immediately. They will use common names and fake badge numbers. The subjects may become hostile and use threatening language. And they may show up on your caller ID as IRS or local police department.

If the IRS is attempting to contact you they will do it officially through the US Postal Service. No IRS employee will threaten you or ask you to wire money, pay with a prepaid debit card or ask you to share your credit card information over the phone.

If you receive such a call do not give them any personal or financial information over the phone. Hang up the phone and do not take any more calls from them. Contact the Treasury Inspector General at www.tigta.gov (1-800-366-4484) and the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/complaint (1-877-382-4357) if you have not lost any money. Contact your local police department if you have lost any money.

If you file your taxes and find that someone has already filed under your social security number, contact your local police department.



CITIZEN ALERT NETWORK

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Police and Fire Rescue would like to invite citizens of Grants Pass to sign up to receive emergency and community alerts via text message or email. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons or evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. This notification system will allow you to receive important information about events that could affect your home, work, school and more. Our priority is to reach the citizens of Grants Pass and provide them with important information regarding their city and their safety.

How it works:

When you register to receive notifications about a concern or safety hazard, you will receive a message on the communication method you requested (text, email, phone...). You can request to be alerted until you confirm the message, so in the event that your neighborhood is being evacuated, you would continue to receive messages until it has been read and confirmed. If you do not have a land line, you will not receive these important emergency alerts. You will need to opt in to participate (a land line is not necessary to sign up – you will still receive alerts based on the contact options you input).

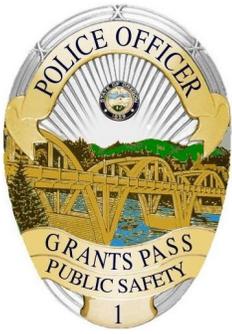
How to sign up:

Go to www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Under Citizen Alert Network, click on the link. It will bring up the Josephine and Jackson County Citizen Alert Page.

Create a profile with your address, type of contact, phone number, name and password.

The goal of the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety is to have the Citizens Alert Network up and going on March 1st, 2016. If you do not sign up to receive these alerts, you will be missing out on an opportunity to keep yourself and family informed. The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety will no longer be using Tip 411 to provide you with any emergent information. If you have any questions about the alert system, please call 541-450-6200.



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Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

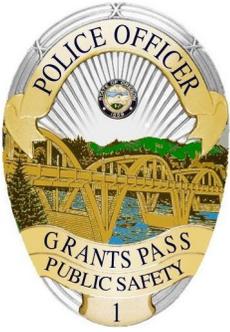
SMOKE ALARMS

It's that time – Grants Pass Fire Marshal urges you to test your smoke alarms when setting your clock Sunday, March 13 marks the beginning of Daylight Saving Time and serves as a good reminder for Oregonians to test their smoke alarms. The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Bureau is urging residents to test their smoke alarms before automatically changing the batteries.

“Smoke alarm technology has advanced and many now come with 10-year batteries and some are tamper-resistant,” said Grants Pass Fire Marshal Joe Hyatt. “So, I encourage residents to test their alarms before changing the battery.”

Oregon law requires ionization-only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered to come equipped with a hush feature and a 10-year battery. Because of this technology, the national slogan “Change your clock, Change your battery” may not apply to Oregon residents who have these ionization-only smoke alarms.

Other types of alarms are also being sold with either a 10-year battery or a standard-life battery. “Ensuring you have working smoke alarms in your home is the single most important step you can take to increase your family’s safety from a home fire,” adds Hyatt. “Also, be sure to replace any smoke alarm that is 10 years old or older.”



TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM

To test your alarm properly we recommend you:

- 1) Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.
- 2) When replacing batteries, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct battery to use.
- 3) Always retest alarms after installing new batteries.
- 4) Replace any alarm that fails to operate after installing a new battery.
- 5) Inspect your alarms to determine if they are 10 years old or older, and replace any smoke alarm 10 years old or older. Look for a date on the back of the alarm. If there is no date, your alarm is more than 10 years old and should be replaced.
- 6) Follow the manufacturer's instructions on regularly cleaning your alarms of dust and cobwebs.

Working smoke alarms provide a critical early warning to a fire, allowing you vital minutes to escape, which increase your chances of survival. Additional safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.
- Never disconnect or remove batteries from smoke alarms for other uses.
- Use the smoke alarm's hush feature to silence nuisance alarms.
- Make a home fire escape plan and practice it with family members.

For more smoke alarm and fire safety information, contact Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6200 or visit

http://www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/Pages/CommEd_SA_Program.aspx