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**Grants Pass Department  
Of Public Safety**

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**Contact Information:**

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

City Hall

541-450-6000



## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter July—August 2016

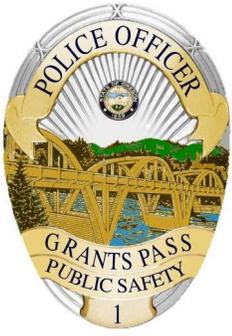
The Grants Pass Police Association (GPPA) would like to announce the re-opening of the Baker Park life jacket loaner station in Grants Pass. The loaner station, equipped with personal flotation devices (PFDs/"life jackets") for infants and children, is designed for families using and enjoying the Rogue River. Anyone wishing to outfit their child(ren) can borrow a life jacket, free of charge, for their time at Baker Park. The life jacket loaner station is currently in.

The station will be outfitted with eight (8) children's life jackets (50-90 pounds) and two (2) infant's life jackets (up to 30 pounds) and has directions on the proper usage and fitting of the jackets, available in both English and Spanish. The Mustang-brand PFDs are Coast Guard approved, and have reflective material, heavy duty grab handles, and head pillows to assist in keeping the user's head from turning face down while in the water.

The GPPA will make the PFDs available between May and September, each year. Each life jacket will be inspected monthly by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and will be replaced, should they be found to be worn, damaged or stolen.

The GPPA is proud to make the life jackets available to the public again this year and we ask that the jackets be returned to the station after each daily use.

Members of the Executive Board for the GPPA can be reached at the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety non-emergent telephone number (541) 450-6260.



## Firework Safety

Fireworks during the Fourth of July are as American as apple-pie, but did you know that more than twice the numbers of fires are reported on that day than on any other day of the year in the United States? Two out of five of these fires are caused by fireworks. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted by trained professionals. This year the Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce and the IOOF Golden Rule #78 will provide a display at the fairgrounds.

If you decide to set off your own fireworks please follow these safety tips:

### WHEN CAN I SET OFF FIREWORKS?

Within the City limits of Grants Pass, fireworks can only be used on the 4th of July between 6 PM and 11 PM. Only "Oregon Legal Fireworks" are permitted.

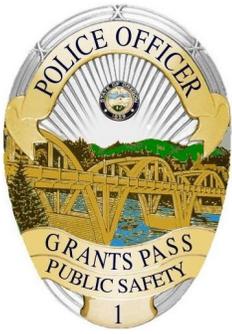
### WHERE ARE THE USE OF FIREWORKS ILLEGAL AT ALL TIMES?

- Any areas posted "NO FIREWORKS ALLOWED"
- West of Highland Ave. and Dimmick St., north of the rail road tracks.
- Haviland Dr between Cloverlawn and Linden.
- Panoramic Loop area.
- Overland Loop area.
- North of Interstate 5.
- In areas where there is the potential to ignite combustible materials and vegetation.
- Within any City park
- Within any Public School

### WHAT FIREWORKS ARE LEGAL?

Oregon Legal Fireworks:

- Do not explode
- Do not fly into the air – illegal: Mortars fired from tubes, Sky Lanterns
- Do not travel more than 6 feet horizontally
- Do not travel more than 12 inches vertically



#### BE PREPARED BEFORE LIGHTING FIREWORKS!

- Use only fireworks legal in Oregon, purchased from licensed outlets.
- Always read and follow label directions.
- Place Pets indoors; they are easily frightened by fireworks.
- Always have water handy – a garden hose or a bucket of water.
- Light fireworks outdoors on a flat, clear area away from houses, dry leaves or grass and combustible materials.

#### BE SAFE WHEN LIGHTING FIREWORKS

Do not allow young children to play with fireworks under any circumstances. Sparklers, considered by many to be the ideal “safe” firework for the young, burn at 1200 to 2000 degrees F and can easily cause severe burns and ignite clothing. Children do not understand the danger involved and cannot act appropriately in case of emergency.

Older children should only be permitted to use fireworks under close adult supervision. Do not allow any running or horseplay.

Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Place duds in a bucket of water and throw them away.

Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

Never ignite fireworks inside a container such as a bottle or can.

Keep unused fireworks away from the area where you are lighting them.

Never have any portion of your body over a firework when lighting.

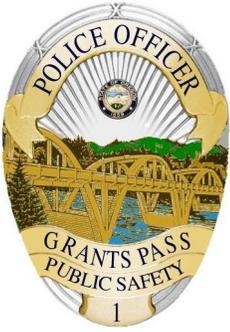
#### FIREWORKS RELATED INJURIES – FACTS (NFPA)

In 2012, 8,700 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. An estimated 17,800 reported fires were started by fireworks. These fires resulted in an estimated 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage.

The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times higher for children ages 5-14 than for the general population. 83% of all emergency room fireworks injuries were from legal consumer fireworks.

On Independence Day in a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for almost half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

If you have any questions about fireworks use please call the Fire Prevention office at 541-450-6200.



## **Water Safety**

As the temperatures continue to rise, our community is finding ways to stay cool. The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety wants you to be Water Safe this summer.

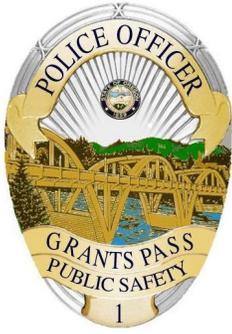
Drowning can happen at any time of year, especially during the summer months when drowning incidents can increase up to almost 90% as compared to the rest of the year. Whether you are at a lake, river or swimming pool, please follow these basic steps to be Water Safe:

- Wear your Life Jacket regardless of boat type or difficulty of water. One third of all whitewater accidents could have been prevented if the victim was wearing a life jacket; many deaths occur in very easy rapids!
- Avoid alcohol and illegal drugs. Alcohol dulls reflexes and survival responses, and is often linked to fatalities.
- Know the river to prevent unpleasant surprises. Find out what lies downstream.
- Avoid extremes of weather and water: Very high flows and cold temperatures pose special challenges to paddlers. If you do not have the specialized gear and skills needed, wait until conditions improve.
- Never jump off bridges or structures. River depth and channels change continually, making it impossible to know the water's depth or what lies below the surface.
- Do not swim in irrigation ditches or canals. The water is moving very fast and you can be swept away. Canal bottoms can contain hazards or debris that can entrap you.
- NEVER enter underwater structures.
- Do not leave children unattended near water. Do not trust a child's life to another child.
- Secure the area around swimming pools to prevent children from entering pool areas unattended.
- Have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.

Make sure everyone in your family learns to swim well. Enroll in an age-appropriate swimming class.

Please have a fun summer and be Water Safe!

For more information, consult: <http://www.poolsafely.gov> and <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Safety>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Office at 541-450-6200.



## **Ready, Set, Go!**

Be prepared for summer and get Ready, Set and Go!

The Ready, Set, Go! Program seeks to share information with residents on what they can do to successfully prepare for a wildland fire. Speak with your local fire department about your area's threat for wildland fire and learn more about the wildland urban interface (WUI). Fire season is an increasing threat and a year-round reality in many areas.

Ready – Be fire-adapted and ready

Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing in the home know the plan of action.

Set – Situational awareness

Pack your emergency items. Know how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department and public safety.

Go! - Act early

Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Also be sure to adhere to your local jurisdiction's evacuation processes. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

What else can you do to prepare for wild fire? Become a Fire Adapted Communities.

Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) is a concept that is used to convey the preparedness message from the USDA Forest Service and related federal and state land management agencies that encourages individuals to acknowledge and prepare for wildland fire threat at the community level. A fire adapted community requires minimal assistance from firefighters during the threat of a wildland fire as the community and its residents have accepted personal responsibility to seek out information and take action. This is important as the fire service is often not able to respond to every home affected by wildland fire. For more information on Ready! Set! Go! or Fire Adapted Communities, please contact the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6200.