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**Neighborhood Watch Newsletter** May—June 2017

**Police Officer Memorial Week**

Since 1962 when President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officer Memorial Day, the week of May 15th is National Police Week. This week is a time to pay special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting and serving their communities.

Every year the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, along with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police, come together to pay tribute to those that have lost their lives in the line of duty.

This year the event will be held on May 16th, 2017. It will begin at 10 am at the front of the Courthouse at 500 NW 6th Street. Community members are welcome to join and watch the event.

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**Grants Pass Department  
Of Public Safety**

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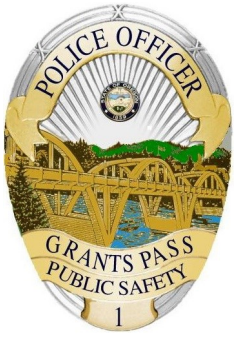
**Contact Information:**

Non-Emergency  
541-450-6260

Fire  
541-450-6200

City Hall  
541-450-6000



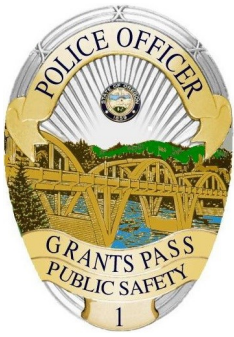


## **International Firefighters Day**

International Firefighters Day is observed every year on May 4th. It is an opportunity for the community to recognize and support current and past firefighters for their commitment to the community. They spend countless hours and years working to keep our communities safe.

## **Vacation House Checks**

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to remind citizens of some of the services they provide to the community. Our department and its volunteers can assist you in your peace of mind when you head out of town on vacation. If you are gone more than 3 days, we can provide checks on residential properties while you are away. This does not apply to business or vacant properties, or at residences that have housesitters. To sign up for this program, contact the Records Department at 541-450-6260. The Records Department will fill out a form over the phone with you and your residence will be checked on while you are away.

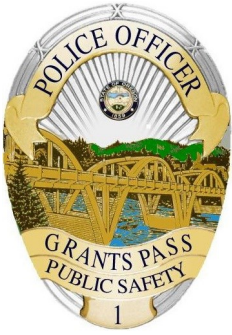


## Dogs in Cars

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.

- 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.



## Fire Safety While Spring Cleaning

With the arrival of spring comes blue skies, blooming flowers and spring cleaning. This is the perfect time for a refresher on fire safety tips that should be followed year-round. Keeping fire safety in mind when doing things around the house, like cleaning dryer's lint filter after each load of laundry, will help prevent fires.

Important spring cleaning home fire safety tips from the NFPA:

**Fact:** The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.

- Clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Keep the area around your dryer clear of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing.

**Fact:** Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.

- Ensure smoke alarms are installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test them at least once a month by pushing the test button.

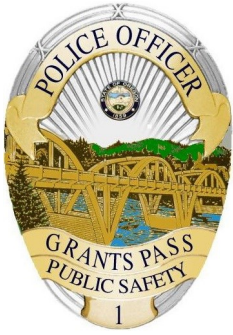
**Fact:** Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.

- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.
- Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.

**Fact:** Extension cord fires outnumbered fires beginning with permanent or detachable power cords by two-to-one.

- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use.
- Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.

For more fire safety tips, visit [www.nfpa.org/safetytips](http://www.nfpa.org/safetytips).

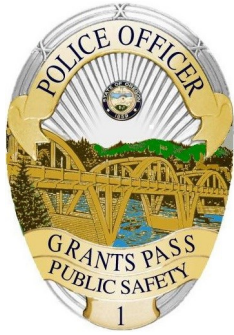


## Citizens Public Safety Academy

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety is proud to announce the upcoming 27th Citizen's Public Safety Academy. The Citizen's Public Safety Academy (CPSA) will begin on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017, at 6:00 P.M., at the Grants Pass Parkway Public Safety Center. Applications will be accepted until from Thursday, June 1st, 2017 until 5 pm on Friday, July 7th, 2017.

The citizens participating will learn many aspects of both Police and Fire operations throughout the academy. We will be accepting approximately 25 participants from the community who will attend 12 sessions total, every Tuesday, for three and a half hours a session. Also, there will be four optional Saturday', where the students can participate in defensive tactics, vehicle operations, fire attack and firearms.

The GPDPS CPSA is held once a year and originated back in 1997. A Student Public Safety Academy for students at GPHS is also held during the other half of the year. You can obtain information or an application online at the City of Grants Pass website at [www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov). If you have any further questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy at (541) 450-6245.



## Heatstroke Deaths and Children

In 2014, 32 children died from being left in hot cars nationwide. From 01/01/15 to 09/24/15 there had been 23 deaths documented. 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.