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Neighborhood Watch Newsletter September-October 2017

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to remind citizens that school is back in session. The following tips will help keep you and your loved ones safe during this time:

**Grants Pass Department
Of Public Safety**

Contact Information:

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

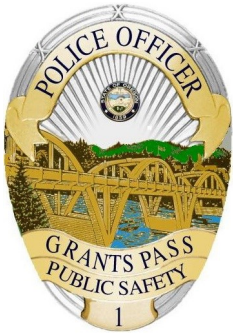
City Hall

541-450-6000



1. Slow down and be alert in residential areas and near schools.
2. Speed limit in school zones is now 20 mph on school days.
3. Take extra time to look for kids in intersections, medians and along curbs.
4. Enter and exit driveways and alleyways slowly.
5. Watch for children along the road in the mornings and evenings when they are waiting for buses.
6. Stop for school bus signals when they are loading or unloading children. Oregon law requires drivers to stop in both directions for school buses.
7. Never pass a school bus on the right.
8. Stop and allow pedestrians to cross at crosswalks, to include your lane and the lane adjacent to you.

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



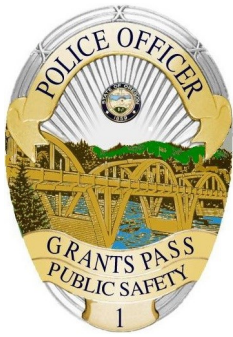
Fire Prevention Week 2017 is October 8th through 14th

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is: Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives, Test Yours Every Month!



Every Second Counts Plan 2 Ways Out!

Many people think fire is something that happens to other people. Unfortunately, this common misperception continues to put Americans at risk to fire each year, particularly at home, where people think they're safest from fire but are actually at the greatest risk. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a home structure fire was reported every 86 seconds in 2015, with about 80% of all U.S. fire deaths annually occurring at home.

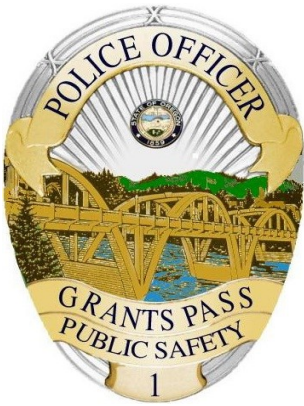
In fact, today's home fires present increased risks to occupants. Newer homes are built with lightweight materials that burn faster than older home constructions. They also tend to be designed with open floor plans that enable fire to spread rapidly. Meanwhile, many of the products and furnishings in today's homes are produced with materials that generate dark, toxic gases when burned, making it impossible to breathe or see within moments. In short, home fires present a real risk that Grants Pass residents need to take seriously.

One of the most basic but vital elements of home fire safety is having a home escape plan that everyone in the household has practiced. In a fire situation, when the smoke alarm sounds, a practiced home escape plan ensures that everyone knows how to use the precious minutes wisely.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" works to better educate the public about the critical importance of developing a home escape plan and practicing it. Your Grants Pass Department of Public Safety is working in coordination with NFPA, the official sponsor of the Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, to reinforce those potentially life-saving messages. Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2017.

We would like to urge all our residents to use this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign as a reminder to develop a home escape plan with everyone in the household and practice it twice a year. A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

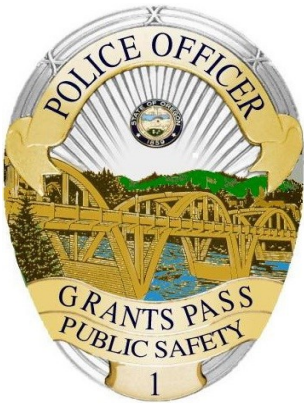
For more details about this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" and home escape planning, visit www.firepreventionweek.org and watch for more information on our website at www.grantspassoregon.gov/prevention



To help keep children safe this Halloween, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime and Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind parents of some Halloween safety tips:

1. Make sure children are wearing reflective, bright colors, so drivers can see them.
2. Use a flashlight to see and be seen. Remind children to walk on the sidewalks or as close to the curb as possible. Always use crosswalks and look both ways before crossing the street. Always walk, never run across a street.
3. Warn your children not to eat any candy until it can be inspected by you.
4. Advise children to never enter a stranger's home or car.
5. Avoid costumes that are too long or loose to avoid tripping.
6. Make sure the holes in your child's mask are large enough to see through easily.
7. Children should always stay within a group. Never let them go out alone.
8. If you use a candle in your Jack-O-Lantern, don't leave it unattended.
9. The safest option during this busy night is to accompany your children to designated events.
10. Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters and Jack O' Lanterns.
11. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.

The Grant Pass Department of Public Safety Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind you that the Fire Prevention Bureau must inspect all Haunted Houses not located in a private residence prior to opening to the public. The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime and Fire Prevention Bureau would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Halloween!



Test Your Alarm for Life!

Your smoke alarm has the power to save your life. Or does it? If you haven't tested your smoke alarm lately, it may not be working. And that's a risk you can't afford to take. Working smoke alarms give us early warning of a fire, providing extra time to escape safely. But they can't do their job if we haven't done ours - monthly testing to make sure they're working. Test all the smoke alarms in your home. For the life of the alarm and for the lives of your loved ones.

What to do when your Alarm Sounds!

What would you do if your home caught on fire? Would you know where to go if smoke or flames blocked your escape? There is no time to think about these questions in a real fire. It's hot, smoky, and so dark you may not be able to see your own hands. Know ahead of time what to do if there's a fire. Develop an escape plan with two ways out of every room. You'll need a second way in case your primary exit is blocked by smoke or flames. And make sure every exit is accessible, including windows. Getting out is your first priority in a fire. And once out, stay out!