

In This Issue:

Tax Fraud Scam

Car Seat Education

Smoke Alarm Safety

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter March-April 2016

Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

Contact Information:

Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

Fire

541-450-6200

City Hall

541-450-6000



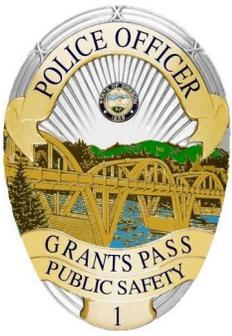
Tax Fraud Scam

It's that time of year again. As you start to file your taxes, you may receive a call from subjects claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). These subjects 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. They may even show up on your caller ID as the IRS or a local police department.

If the IRS needs 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.



CAR SEAT EDUCATION

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to help educate parents on car seat laws and provide information that may be helpful in keeping their children safe in a vehicle. Each state creates laws to ensure children are safe while traveling in a vehicle. Children at every age have different requirements based on how they are physically developing and their abilities. Each child is different, which is why Oregon Law is based on both age and size. We want to make sure that in the event that a crash occurs, your children are safe and secure in their seats.

Oregon Law requires different car seats and different positions based on crash studies and recommendations from medical professionals:

Birth up to one year: Rear facing with harness until 1 year and 20 lbs. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends rear facing until 2 years old.

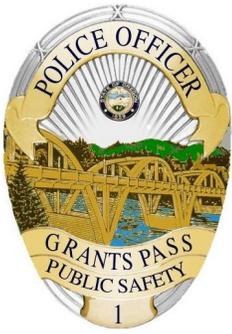
Over 1 year: Forward facing car seat with harness until 40 lbs.

Over 40 lbs: Required to use a booster seat until they reach 4 ft 9 in tall, or they turn 8 years old.

When a child weighs less than 40 lbs and is in a car seat with a harness, they are required to have the harness retainer clip at the armpit level. The straps should not be twisted and should fit snug (cannot pinch any slack). This may seem tight to you, but it is not. If there is any slack it will leave a gap that can create force in a crash that can cause injury. Do not leave bulky clothes (jackets) on when you secure the child in their seat. This will leave a gap between the harness and the child.

Children weighing more than 40 lbs, who are under 4'9" or 8 years old, are required to be in a booster seat. The seat belt must have a lap and shoulder belt to ensure their safety. The shoulder belt should fit across the center of their chest and not down lower or up in their neck. The lap belt must fit across the upper thighs. Any child under the age of 13 should sit in the back seat and away from front impact air bags.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has employees that are trained car seat technicians who would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you have about your current car seat installation or child fit. Contact the Parkway Public Safety Station at 541-450-6200 to schedule a time with a technician.



SMOKE ALARMS

The City Fire Marshal urges you to test your smoke alarms when advancing your clock

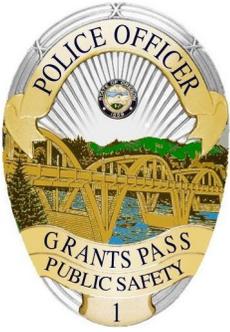
Sunday, March 12th marks the beginning of daylight saving time and the Grants Pass Fire Prevention Bureau is recommending residents test their smoke alarms before automatically changing the batteries.

“Smoke alarm technology has advanced and many now come with 10-year batteries and some are tamper-resistant,” said 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.”



To test your alarm properly we recommend you:

- **Push the test button to be sure the battery is working.**
- **When replacing batteries, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the correct battery type to use.**
- **Always retest alarms after installing new batteries.**
- **Replace any alarm that fails to operate after installing a new battery.**
- **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.**
- **Follow the manufacturer's instructions for 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 (hallway).**
- **Never disconnect or remove batteries from smoke alarms for other uses.**
- **Use the smoke alarm's hush feature to silence nuisance alarms such as cooking smoke or shower steam.**
- **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