

How to report a crime in Grand Ronde

By Al LaChance

Grand Ronde Police Chief

I'd like to keep Tribal employees and the general population of Grand Ronde informed on the proper procedures for reporting, and understanding the differences between, crimes in progress, situations that require immediate assistance and crimes that have already occurred.

What constitutes witnessing a crime in progress?

A crime in progress can include (but is not limited to):

- A fight;
- A domestic disturbance;
- Drug use or possession;
- Harassment;
- Trespassing;
- Assault;
- Any property crime or other crime that is currently happening that you are witnessing;
- Any situation in which the health or safety of a person is currently in jeopardy.



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What constitutes a situation that requires immediate assistance?

Situations that require immediate attention can include (but are not limited to):

- Fire;
- Traffic accident;
- Road hazard;
- Mental welfare check;
- Runaway juvenile;
- Any situation that is occurring right now where police, fire or medical services are needed.

What are examples of crimes that already occurred?

Crimes that already occurred may be something such as:

- You were assaulted earlier, the person has left, you are not injured, no one is currently in danger and you want to file a report;
- Your car was broken into or damaged earlier, you didn't see who did it and you want to file a report;
- You lost your purse a week ago and your credit card was used;
- Property was vandalized or stolen earlier and you want to file a report;
- Any situation or crime that occurred in the past in which the health or safety of a person is not currently in jeopardy.

Over the last few months, there have been some changes in our coverage with Polk County:

- Two of the contracted deputies have been out on indefinite medical leave and have not been replaced by the county (one day shift and one night shift);
- As of March 11, a third deputy retired and as yet has not been replaced (our last remaining day shift deputy);
- This leaves just one Polk County deputy, who works three nights on, three nights off, on the graveyard shift.

Our staffing at Grand Ronde is limited as well right now. Officer Patrick McConnell is attending a nine-week K9 Academy in Arizona, Sgt. Jake McKnight works the day shift Sunday through Wednesday and

Officer Ron Wellborn works the night shift on Saturday through Tuesday.

This means that during the week, there are two officers on day shift Monday through Wednesday (myself and Sgt. McKnight) and only one officer Thursday and Friday (me).

Unfortunately, I am often required to attend various meetings, both here on the Tribal campus and in Dallas and Salem, so I am not always working patrol and therefore not always available to respond to calls as quickly as I'd like. Additionally, part of being a police officer requires annual mandatory training in various areas, so the officers and sergeant, at some points during the year, will be out of town attending these trainings.

We hope that Polk County will soon be able to replace the two day shift deputies who aren't here, but even still, as of July the contract will change and we will have less coverage.

After recruit Tyler Brown graduates from the academy, and when Officer McConnell returns from Arizona, our coverage will be greater and we will be able to respond to more calls.

Until then, here's how you can help.

If you need to report a crime in progress or a situation that requires immediate police, fire or medical service, please call 911.

If you need to report a crime that occurred in the past, or a situation that does not require immediate police, fire or medical services, call the non-emergency dispatch number at 503-879-2123. Or, if you are more comfortable doing so, you can call the office directly at 503-879-1821 or call any of the officers directly.

If you are unsure what you need to report is or is not an emergency, please call 911.

Why call 911 or non-emergency dispatch to report a crime in progress? Why shouldn't I just call the police station directly?

There are several reasons why it is better to call 911 or the non-emergency line when you need to make a report:

- If there isn't anyone at the station to answer the phone, you could be losing valuable time while waiting for us to answer. Mindy Lane is the only staff person at the department, and though she works Monday through Friday, she is often required to travel to the Polk County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Independence Police and attend meetings and trainings outside of Grand Ronde.
- If department staff does answer the phone, we have to gather the pertinent information and then call it in to dispatch ourselves, thus losing valuable time, and oftentimes Dispatch will ask for information that we don't know because we are making a report based on third-party information.
- If department staff is available to answer the phone that doesn't guarantee that a Grand Ronde officer is available to take the call.
- The 911 and non-emergency Dispatch Center has access to contact all surrounding agency officers and deputies in the area. Thus, if they see that no Grand Ronde officers are on duty or available, they have the ability to reach out to Polk County, Yamhill County, Oregon State Police and a variety of surrounding agencies to assess whether they are available to take the call. Our department does not have the means or capability of doing that.

Thank you to everyone for your attention to the happenings around Grand Ronde. Your diligence is key to helping maintain a safe and healthy environment to live and work in.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about these protocols, feel free to give me a call at 503-879-2444. ■

West Valley Veterans Memorial Application

Name: _____ PH: _____
 Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 DOB: _____ Gender: Male / Female (circle) CTGR Tribal: Y / N (circle) If Tribal, roll# _____
 DOE _____ Place of Entry _____
 DOS: _____ Place of Separation _____
 Rank: _____ Branch: _____ Honorable: Y / N (circle)
 Deceased: Y / N (circle) DOD: _____ Place of Burial _____

*All applicants must submit a copy of their DD214. If applicant is deceased, a family member or spouse can submit a copy of their DD214. If you are a CTGR Tribal member please attach a copy of your Tribal ID. If you are non-Tribal please attach a copy of a bill/record with your name and address showing you had lived or now reside in Grand Ronde, Willamina or Sheridan. Please send application and all documents to: Grand Ronde Veterans SEB, 9615 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR, 97347. If you have any questions, please call Wink Soderberg at 503-879-4001.