



Community Watch Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 4

July

2019

Our Mission

The mission of the Bonner County Sheriff's Office Community Watch Program is to proactively partner with law abiding citizens to prevent and reduce crime. This will be accomplished through communication, crime prevention education and assisting communities, neighborhoods and businesses in achieving a safe environment for its residents.

Thank you for stepping up in your area of Bonner County and taking a leadership position in your local community watch group.

As of this writing we have 50 groups, 70 Neighborhood Captains, and 1,040 members

How to Use CrimeReports.Com

Crimerreports is the nation's largest collection of law enforcement agencies committed to transparency, public access and citizen engagement.

The data on *CrimeReports* is sent on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis from more than 1000 participating agencies to the *CrimeReports* map. Each agency controls their data flow to *CrimeReports*, including how often they send data, and which incidents are included.

If you have reported an incident or crime to your local police or sheriff, it will likely appear on the site within 48 hours. Some crimes are not displayed because they are part of an ongoing investigation. Agencies may delay posting an incident until its investigation is completed, as prematurely releasing information to the public may harm those investigations. Please contact your local law enforcement agency if you believe an incident should be added or removed from the site.

CrimeReports relies on individual law enforcement agencies to provide details on

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How to Report a Crime

There are a number of pieces of information that are helpful when reporting a crime. If you can remember the five “W’s” you are in good shape and providing law enforcement with information they can assess in their response.


If the incident is an emergency and occurring right now, you will want to call 911.

If the incident is non-emergent, you will want to call dispatch at 208-265-5525. In either case you may be talking to the same person, but they are able to prioritize the call and direct the appropriate response to law enforcement, EMS or fire personnel.

When you call, remember these questions: Where, What, Who, When and Why?

The dispatcher will ask you:

- **Where** are you and where is the scene
- **What** is happening
- **Who** is involved? Is anyone hurt?
- **When** did it happen? Is it going on right now?
- **Why** – follow up questions

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION		
SEX Male Female	RACE White Hispanic Black Other	AGE
HEIGHT		HAT (type & color)
WEIGHT		TIE
HAIR Black Brown Blond Red		COAT
EYES		SHIRT
GLASSES TYPE		PANTS
TATTOOES		SHOES
SCARS/MARKS		WEAPONS
COMPLEXION		

With regard to a suspicious vehicle, remember to report:

- **Body Type** - SUV, Pick Up, Convertible
- **Color:**
- **How Many Doors?** Two, Four
- **Size:** Compact, Midsize, Luxury
- **License Plate-** Letters & Numbers & State
- **Direction of travel?**
- **How many occupants?**
- **Description of occupants?**
- **Vehicle Damage?**

When giving a description of a suspicious person, remember to report”

- **Sex and Race?**
- **Nationality/Ethnicity?**
- **Complexion?**
- **Age?**
- **Height and Weight?**
- **Build?** Small, medium, large
- **Tattoos?** Where are they located?
- **Eye Color? Wearing glasses?**
- **Hair length and color?**
- **Clothing?** Type, color, style, shoes, pants, shirt, hat (it’s helpful to start from the top and work down).
- **Method of escape and means?**
- **Direction of travel?**
- **Was there a weapon involved?** Shape, color size.

Watch Captains Questions and Answers

This newsletter is as much yours as it is the Community Watch Program. As such we want to ensure you have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers to issues you may have. The questions will remain anonymous but the issues and discussion will be an important part of our communication and education process.

Call or email your question to Sheryl Kins at sheryl.kins@bonnercountyid.gov. It will then become part of the next newsletter.

Question: I understand that Watch Captains can meet with Captain Hemphill or Lt. Riffel. How does this work?

Answer: You are correct.

Once a month Captain Hemphill and/or Lt. Riffel will be available, by appointment, starting at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to meet with any Watch Captain(s) to address specific issues to their neighborhoods or other concerns.

Contact Sheryl Kins at 208-263-8714 for more information.



crimes. Each agency is different and may provide more or less crime information than others. At minimum, *CrimeReports* requires four items of information when mapping crimes: type, location, date, and time. All additional information is voluntarily supplied by individual law enforcement agencies.

CrimeReports is committed to providing the public with the most accurate and up-to-date crime information available. However, for the sake of victim privacy, all crime addresses have been rounded to the block level.

To sign up for crime alerts, search for an address or pan the map to the area that you are interested in, and click the "**Create an Alert**" button. From there, you will be walked through the process of choosing the frequency of your alerts, the name of your alert, and which incident types you would like to be notified about.

Please note that the alert you receive will exactly reflect your current view of the map - including how far in or out you are zoomed, which incident types you are currently viewing, and which area of the map you are looking at.

For more information go to www.CrimeReports.com. To learn more on how to maneuver your way around the site go to the YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJaDXCT7Do4> or go to the YouTube site and search *Crimerreports*.



Humor in Uniform

Officer stops a man for speeding— notices he's not wearing his required prescription glasses.

Officer says, "I have to give you a ticket for not wearing your glasses."

Driver says, "Officer, I have contacts."

Officer says, "I don't care who you know, you're still getting a ticket."



Record Your Serial Numbers

It is worth repeating!

What is needed to build a case involving the theft of your property:

- Record the serial numbers of your property and store them separately so they can be obtained later.
- Take pictures of items.
- You can also apply numbers (NOT Social Security) or markings, using a simple engraver with your initials, numbers or colored markings.

This information can be searched against pawn shop records via the Spokane Pawn Network, which covers Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Newport Pawn Shops.

Bonner County pawn shops provide printouts of activity to local police departments' and Sheriff's Office.

Searches can then be done by the name, serial number and item description.

The Bonner County Sheriff's Office now has two electric engravers that you can borrow to record information on your possessions. Contact Sheryl Kins at 208-265-8714 to make arrangements to borrow.

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