



GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

Safe Exchange Site

Grande Prairie RCMP is reminding the public that there is a Safe Internet Exchange Zone in front of the detachment for residents to utilize when meeting to buy and sell online items. The Safe Internet Exchange Zone is open 24/7 for exchange if items purchased off the internet on Kijiji, Facebook buy/sell sites, Marketplace, etc. It provides buyers and sellers a high traffic location that is well-lit and monitored 24 hours a day by surveillance cameras. Residents are encouraged to visit the site during daytime hours.

Grande Prairie RCMP offers the following tips:

- Do not meet in a secluded place or invite strangers into your home.
- Have someone come with you when you meet. If you cannot arrange for someone to come with you, let friends or family know where you are going, what time you're meeting, and all the details about who you are meeting. Let your contact know that everything is okay.
- Do not disclose to the seller how you will be paying if it's not necessary. If the seller is aware that you will be arriving with a large quantity of cash, it is an excellent opportunity for a personal robbery to take place.
- If you are carrying a large sum of cash, either before or after the transaction, do not make it obvious, and be careful to ensure that you are not followed after the transaction.
- Do not purchase anything while using public Wi-Fi. Shop using your own data connection or a trusted network. If you have done some shopping already, watch your financial statements for any unauthorized purchases.

Grande Prairie RCMP feel that this is another crime reduction initiative to offer Grande Prairie area residents a safe place in the city to do their exchanges.

Rules of the Road

Grande Prairie RCMP have received several complaints in July involving ATV and Dirt Bikes travelling on city roads and residential areas. Off-Highway vehicles (OHV) have also been seen operating on local walking trails. These vehicles are called Off-Highway vehicles for a reason and they may not be operated on any highway, road or ditches. This is for the safety of OHV operators, as well as the safety of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Here are some things to remember to operate your OHV safely:

- Ride on approved trails only
- Wear a helmet
- OHV's must be registered, insured and have a licence plate.
- OHV's must have a headlight, taillight and approved muffler.
- Never operate an OHV while impaired or distracted.

By failing to obey the laws, operators may be issued violation tickets under the Traffic Safety Act, Off-Highway Vehicle Act, and/or Municipal By-Laws

Traffic Stop Leads to Charges

On July 1, 2021, Grande Prairie Officers were conducting patrols in the area of 99 Street, Grande Prairie, when a check of a licence plate on a vehicle indicated that the vehicle was stolen. A traffic stop was initiated. The adult female driver and adult male passenger were arrested and charged with possession of property obtained by crime, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public and possessing a prohibited weapon in a motor vehicle. The male was also charged with breaching a release order

They Are Not Toys

In June and July 2021, Grande Prairie RCMP responded to multiple incidents involving BB guns, airsoft guns and replica firearms. In some of the occurrences, members of the public had discharged the BB gun/airsoft gun. Exhibiting, manipulating, or carrying these items is dangerous and can present a threat to public safety. BB guns, airsoft guns and replica firearms should not be brought into public as they are not toys and these incidents heighten public safety for all when police respond. As these items often look like real firearms, they are treated as a firearm by police until proven otherwise. Along with the safety risks, charges can result under the Criminal Code of Canada or local bylaws. These concerning events have led to a need to bring this to the attention of the public in an effort to provide education.

Crime Reduction Unit

Crime reduction is a policing priority for Grande Prairie RCMP. It is an important piece of the overall policing strategy designed to reduce the negative impact of crime on our community. Grande Prairie RCMP utilizes various crime reduction strategies such as having a Crime Reduction Unit (CRU).

CRU concentrates on identifying repeat offenders, conducting targeted enforcement initiatives and addressing the root causes of crime. It is a small percent of the population committing more serious crimes and that is CRU's primary focus. CRU monitors prolific offenders and creates offender management strategies. These strategies include:

- Completing compliance checks on offenders with court-imposed conditions (Release orders, Probation, Parole). CRU officers become familiar with the offender and can often recognize signs that they are returning to their criminal lifestyle (or drug/ alcohol use, etc.). Strict compliance is expected and any breach of conditions is investigated with charges laid whenever possible.
- Offering support services if it appears the offender is going down the wrong path
- Liaising with Probation officers/Bail supervisors and Parole Officers. Information sharing between agency partners allows all involved to better identify the most active and high risk offenders and those most likely to fail to abide by their release conditions
- Monitoring Police interactions of identified top offenders and following up on any intel gathered

For more information on Alberta RCMP's crime reduction strategies please visit:

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ab/data-and-innovation-donnees-et-innovation/index-eng.htm>





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Keeping Crime at Bay While You're Away

Grande Prairie RCMP remind community members to ensure they take steps to protect their property against break-ins before leaving for any upcoming vacations. Making sure your property is secure is just as important as planning your vacation.

RCMP has a couple of tips to keep your home safe while enjoying your holidays:

- If possible, have a friend or family member watch your home and keep in contact with you in the event of an emergency. They can help keep your home looking lived in while you are away.
- If you do not have a house sitter, inform trusted neighbours or relatives of your vacation plans and how you can be reached. Leave a key with them so they can check your home.
- Mowing the lawn and parking a vehicle in the driveway are all good practices.
- Security or alarm systems should be used if available or practical. Wide-angle cameras near external doors are especially useful.
- All doors and windows should be secured and locked with extra attention on basement and ground level openings.
- Use window coverings to prevent easy visibility of the inside of your house.
- Have adequate exterior lighting and use automatic timers to turn on lights.
- Store seldom used items or valuables, such as credit cards, identification and jewelry, in safe place.
- Avoid ordering merchandise for delivery when you are away. If you must, use package tracking and ensure someone picks it up off your porch after delivery.
- Avoid temptation to post vacation plans on social media. Once personal information is posted to social networks, it cannot be taken back.
- If you come home and see a window broken or door ajar call 911 immediately. DO NOT enter the dwelling.

RCMP encourage the public to report any criminal or suspicious activity to police. Reports tell us where to look, who to look for and where to patrol in the future. If you see a crime in progress, dial 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.

Pizza Pranksters

On July 16, 2021 Grande Prairie RCMP officers were dispatched to a complaint where someone had dialed 911 to order a pizza and then hung up. Further investigation determined that it was a prank call by two youths. The youths were taught the proper use of 911 and given a warning about the prank call. Grande Prairie RCMP reminds parents to talk to their kids about the proper use of calling 911. Calls from curious kids, prank calls and 911 pocket dials, take away precious time from someone who may really need it. Even a phone without a plan or with pay as you go minutes attached to it, can dial 911.

Here are some tips to prevent false 911 calls and assist officers in reducing the time required to investigate a false 911 call:

- If you accidentally dial 911, do not hang up. Stay on the line and let the call taker know it was an accident.
- Don't allow children to play with the telephone or cell phone. It is not a toy.
- Lock it before you pocket your device—to avoid unintentional calls to 911.

When to call 911:

- Your life or the life of another person is in danger
- You are witnessing a crime in progress
- You are in a collision and are injured
- You suspect a motorist is impaired

If your matter is less urgent, you can call the Grande Prairie RCMP complaint line at 780-830-5700.

Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	July 2020	July 2021	July 2020	July 2021
Break & Enter	34	20	14	7
Theft of Motor Vehicle	30	12	5	4
Theft From Motor Vehicle	82	16	6	0
Possession of Stolen Property	35	19	5	4

All Events	City		Rural	
	July 2020	July 2021	July 2020	July 2021
Total Police Events	2794	2430	513	523
*Police events represent all police calls for service, officer generated files and traffic infractions. Note: These do not represent our final, official crime statistics				
*Crime statistics cover the period of July 1 through July 31, 2021 and are compared to the same period of the previous year. Note: The figures in the chart are raw and may be changed by our review process. They do not represent our final, official crime statistics.				



TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
call the **Grande Prairie RCMP** at 780-830-5700
or your local police detachment.

IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS
you can contact **Crime Stoppers** at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.