



## GRANDE PRAIRIE RCMP NEWSLETTER

### Buckle Up or It Can Cost You Bucks

Grande Prairie RCMP want to remind motorists to wear their seatbelt. The proper use of a safety restraints greatly reduces the risk of serious injury and harm in the event of a motor vehicle collision.

Follow these tips to keeping yourself and passengers safe:

- Drivers and passenger should ensure seatbelts are securely fastened before putting a vehicle in motion and should be worn at all times
- Make sure the lap belt portion of the seatbelt is positioned low across your hips and the shoulder belt is always sitting across the centre of your chest and never under your arm or behind your back
- Ensure the seatbelt is not twisted
- If a motorist or occupant feels they need to remove their seatbelt, find a safe place to pull over and park the car before proceeding to unbuckle your seatbelt

Motorists are responsible for ensuring both themselves and passengers that are under age, are using proper occupant restraints. Failing to wear your seatbelt could result in a fine under the Highway Traffic Act, so remember to buckle up!

### Driving Home the Use of Manners

Speeding and aggressive driving is never worth the risk. *Aggressive driving is any unsafe driving behaviours that is being performed deliberately or with disregard to the safety of others.*

Follow these tips to navigate the roadway safely if you encounter an aggressive driver:

- Do not replicate the aggressive driving and follow the vehicle.
- Avoid making rude comments, obscene gestures or honking your horn aggressively.
- Do not follow an aggressive driver and try to confront them.
- If the aggressive driver confronts you, stay calm

Speeding and driving aggressively reduces the amount of time drivers have to react to unexpected hazards, which puts the driver and all other users of the roadway at risk.

If you see aggressive or dangerous driving, report it to Grande Prairie RCMP or your local police when it is safe to do so. It is helpful to include the location or direction of travel of the vehicle, a description of the driver and vehicle, including license plate, colour, make and model.



### Motorcycle Road Safety

The weather is getting warmer and motorcycle enthusiasts are excited to get their ride out on the road. The first ride after a long break can leave you feeling a bit rusty.

The Grande Prairie RCMP would like to remind motorcyclists of the following safety tips:

- Practice emergency braking and obstacle avoidance
- Be Seen! Avoid being in other drivers' blind spots
- Watch drivers for cues. Do not assume that they see you, will give you the right of way or that they can judge your speed and distance
- Use your signals
- Ride at a safe speed



By remembering these few points, we can all do our part of keeping the roads safer for everyone.

### 9-1-1, What is Your Emergency?

*The Do's and Don'ts of Calling for Assistance*  
Emergency situations where 911 should be called involve the following:

- When someone's life is in danger
- When a crime is in progress. This could include a fight, a theft, a break and enter, a dangerous driver on the roadways, etc.
- When there is a motor vehicle collision with injuries

If 911 is called, provide the following:

- Identify your location. If you do not know the exact address, provide an intersection, highway exit sign, cross street, or landmark
- Let the 911 operator take control of the conversation as they will get all the necessary information
- Answer all the questions to the best of your knowledge and with as much detail as possible
- Stay calm and stay where you are unless you are in danger

Grande Prairie RCMP are advising residents to avoid the following:

- Do not use text messaging to call 911
- Do not program 911 into any telephone as this may lead to accidental calls

If someone calls 911 by mistake, do not hang up the phone. Explain the mistake and that there is no emergency. If someone does hang up, do call back if you realized the mistake. By letting an emergency operator know there is no emergency it will save precious time for them to attend other serious calls for service.





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### Break and Enters

Since January 2022, Grande Prairie RCMP have received several complaints of break and enters to residences and businesses throughout the city of Grande Prairie. However, during the month of March 2022, Grande Prairie RCMP noticed an uptick of break and enters occurring to businesses.

These break and enters have not only resulted in thefts, but businesses also suffer a number of damages including property damage such as broken windows and doors.

Grande Prairie RCMP are actively investigating these incidents and have recently arrested a suspect believed to be involved in several of the break and enters. Information related to the suspect has not been released as the investigation is still ongoing.

Grande Prairie RCMP would like to remind the public to report all suspicious behaviour, break-ins and attempted break-ins to police. If you observe someone committing a crime, call 911 right away and do not confront them yourself. All information reported to police assist in determining hotspots and where to focus patrols in order to prevent crimes, such as break enters and thefts.

Follow these tips to help deter a break and enter:

- Check surveillance systems and ensure they are working properly
- Install an alarm system and audible alarm if possible
- Post signs indicating that the business is under video surveillance, has an active alarm, and does not keep cash on the premises
- Ensure all doors and windows are securely closed and locked
- Have exits and entrances well lit and keep a light on inside the building after hours if possible
- Remove any items that could be used to access the building or get onto the roof

If you discover that a break and enter has occurred at your business or residence, do not enter the premises and contact police. It is important to leave the crime scene undisturbed until police arrive so officers can investigate, collect evidence, determine what items may have been stolen and attempt to recover them.

### Grande Prairie At A Glance

Offence Type	City		Rural	
	March 2021	March 2022	March 2021	March 2022
Break & Enter	15	30	5	7
Theft of Motor Vehicle	16	26	9	9
Theft From Motor Vehicle	31	37	3	8
Possession of Stolen Property	19	12	3	6

\*Crime statistics cover the period of March 1 through March 31, 2022 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.

All Events	City		Rural	
	March 2021	March 2022	March 2021	March 2022
Total Police Events	2146	2704	427	500

*\*Police events represent all police calls for service, officer generated files and traffic infractions. Note: These do not represent our final, official crime statistics*

Online Crime Reporting  
<https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/en>

Crime Mapping  
Grande Prairie City  
<https://www.cityofgp.com/city-services/emergency/rcmp/rcmp-crime-map>  
County of Grande Prairie  
<https://rcmp-k-div.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=572cd3cf20e4d5b7bc09065bf79ce0ac>



**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](http://www.P3Tips.com) or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the *Apple App* or *Google Play Store*.