

CRIME FIGHTER

The Safety Newsletter of the Oro Valley Police Department

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Cell Phones and the Do Not Call Registry



NATIONAL
DO NOT CALL
REGISTRY

Despite viral email, there is no new cell phone database.

Consumers may place their cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry to notify marketers that they don't want to get unsolicited telemarketing calls.

The truth about cell phones and the Do Not Call Registry is:

- The government is not releasing cell phone numbers to telemarketers.
- There is no deadline for registering a cell phone number on the Do Not Call Registry.
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations prohibit telemarketers from using automated dialers to call cell phone numbers without prior consent. Automated dialers are standard in the industry, so most telemarketers are barred from calling consumers' cell phones without their consent.
- There is only **one** Do Not Call Registry, operated by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), with information available at donotcall.gov. There is no separate registry for cell phones.
- The Do Not Call Registry accepts registrations from both cell phones and land lines. To register by telephone, call **1-888-382-1222** (TTY: 1-866-290-4236). You must call from the phone number that you want to register. To register online (donotcall.gov), you will have to respond to a confirmation email.
- If you have registered a mobile or other telephone number already, you don't need to re-register. Once registered, a telephone number stays on the Do Not Call Registry until the registration is canceled or service for the number is discontinued.



www.ovpd.org

Auto Theft Prevention Tips

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AZ.GOV)

The “Layered Approach” to Protection

Professional thieves can steal any car, but make them work for yours. To prevent thefts, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) recommends “Layered Protection.” The more layers of protection on your vehicle, the more difficult it is to steal.

The number of layers your vehicle needs varies depending on your vehicle and geographic location. Your budget and personal preferences should determine which anti-theft device is best for you.

Layer #1 – Common Sense

An unlocked vehicle with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to any thief, regardless of which anti-theft device you use. The common sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart would-be thieves.

- Lock your car- half of all vehicles stolen are left unlocked.
- Take your keys- nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen have the keys in them.
- Park in well-lit areas- car thefts occur at night more than half the time.
- Park in attended lots – car thieves do not like witnesses.
- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended
- Completely close your car windows.
- Do not leave valuables in plain view.
- Do not hide a spare set of keys in the car- the pros know where to look.
- Park with your wheels turned toward the curb.
- Always use your emergency brake when parking.

Layer #2 – Warning Device

The second layer of protection is a visible or audible device which alerts thieves that your vehicle is protected. Popular second layer devices include:

- Audible alarms
- Steering wheel locks
- Steering column locks
- Brake locks
- Tire locks
- Watch you car decals
- Identification markers in or on your vehicle
- Protective Window Laminates
- Microdots applied to various surfaces on vehicle which are imprinted with identification information.
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching on vehicle windows.



Layer #3 – Immobilizing Device

This third layer of protection is a device which prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle.

Some electronic devices have computer chips in ignition keys. Other devices inhibit the flow of electricity of fuel to the engine until a hidden switch or button is activated.

Popular third layer devices include:

- Smart Keys
- High Security locks & keys
- Fuse cut-offs
- Kill switches
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers

Auto Theft Prevention Tips Continued

Layer #4 – Tracking Device

The final layer of protection is a tracking device which emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. Tracking devices are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles.

Passive and Active Anti-Theft Systems

Passive and active anti-theft devices are the two options available when considering an anti-theft system. Passive devices automatically arm themselves when the vehicle is turned off, the ignition key removed, or a door is shut. No additional action is required. Active devices require some independent physical action before they are set, such as pushing a button, or placing a “lock” over a vehicle component part. This physical action must be repeated every time the anti-theft devices is set or it will not function.

While you may not be able to prevent your vehicle from being stolen, despite every precaution, you can take many of the following steps in advance. Being prepared may ultimately help law enforcement recover your vehicle more quickly and reduce your expenses.

- If you discover that your vehicle has been stolen, notify law enforcement immediately. Speed is essential in recovering stolen cars; any delay in reporting only helps the thieves. Be prepared to provide the vehicle’s make, model, color, license plate number, and VIN.
- Keep a photocopy of your vehicle registration and insurance card in your wallet or at home. This will enable you to provide information quickly to law enforcement and your insurance claims agent.
- Make you vehicle easier to identify. One way is to write your initials on an index card and drop it in the window slot, or carefully engrave your initials inside the trunk, hood or even the dashboard near the VIN number.
- Etch the VIN number on all window glass of the vehicle.
- Review your insurance policy annually. Don’t wait until after your vehicle is stolen to find out you don’t have the coverage you think you have. Owners are advised to review their auto insurance policies once a year, including coverage you must have, coverage you’ll probably need, and additional types of coverage, including roadside assistance and rental reimbursement.
- Exercise caution if you see someone tampering with your car. Call 911 as quickly as possible.

Computer Security

Courtesy of the Federal Trade Commision

Scammers, hackers, and identity thieves are looking to steal your personal information – and your money. But there are steps you can take to protect yourself, start by keeping your computer software up-to-date and giving out your personal information only when you have a good reason.

Use Security Software That Updates Automatically

The bad guys constantly develop new ways to attack your computer, so your security software must be up-to-date to protect against the latest threats. Most security software can update automatically; set yours to do so. You can find free security software from well-known companies. Also, set your operating system and web browser to update automatically.

If you let your operating system, web browser, or security software get out-of-date, criminals could sneak their bad programs – malware – onto your computer and use it to secretly break into other computers, send spam, or spy on your online activities. There are steps you can take to detect and get rid of malware.

Computer Security Continued



Don't buy security software in response to unexpected pop-up messages or emails, especially messages that claim to have scanned your computer and found malware. Scammers send messages like these to try to get you to buy worthless software, or worse, to "break and enter" your computer.

Treat Your Personal Information Like Cash

Don't hand it out to just anyone. Your Social Security number, credit card numbers, and bank and utility account numbers can be used to steal your money or open new accounts in your name. So every time you are asked for your personal information – whether in a web form, an email, a text, or a phone message – think about whether you can really trust the request. In an effort to steal your information, scammers will do

everything they can to appear trustworthy.

Check Out Companies to Find out Who You're Really Dealing With

When you're online, a little research can save you a lot of money. If you see an ad or an offer that looks good to you, take a moment to check out the company behind it. Type the company or product name into your favorite search engine with terms like "review," "complaint," or "scam." If you find bad reviews, you'll have to decide if the offer is worth the risk. If you can't find contact information for the company, take your business elsewhere.

Don't assume that an ad you see on a reputable site is trustworthy. The fact that a site features an ad for another site doesn't mean that it endorses the advertised site, or is even familiar with it.

Give Personal Information Over Encrypted Websites Only

If you're shopping or banking online, stick to sites that use encryption to protect your information as it travels from your computer to their server. To determine if a website is encrypted, look for https at the beginning of the web address (the "s" is for secure).

Some websites use encryption only on the sign-in page, but if any part of your session isn't encrypted, the entire account could be vulnerable. Look for https on every page of the site you're on, not just where you sign in.

Protect Your Passwords

Here are a few principles for creating strong passwords and keeping them safe:

- The longer the password, the tougher it is to crack. Use at least 10 characters; 12 is ideal for most home users.
- Mix letters, numbers, and special characters. Try to be unpredictable – don't use your name, birthdate, or common words.
- Don't use the same password for many accounts. If it's stolen from you – or from one of the companies with which you do business – it can be used to take over all your accounts.
- Don't share passwords on the phone, in texts or by email. Legitimate companies will not send you messages asking for your password. If you get such a message, it's probably a scam.
- Keep your passwords in a secure place, out of plain sight.

Back Up Your Files

No system is completely secure. Copy important files onto a removable disc or an external hard drive, and store it in a safe place. If your computer is compromised, you'll still have access to your files.

KidsAndCars.org National Statistics

U.S. Child Nontraffic Fatalities by Year and Type of Danger (1991-2012)

Year	Type of Danger								TOTAL
	Backovers	Frontovers	Heat Stroke	Vehicle in Motion	Underage Driver	Power Window	Falls from vehicle	Other	
1991-1999	96	22	156	30	14	19	2	22	361
2000	28	8	35	12	5	2	0	8	98
2001	55	8	39	10	6	4	2	10	134
2002	72	7	31	14	0	4	2	5	135
2003	108	14	43	17	2	4	1	13	202
2004	85	25	39	18	9	9	1	9	195
2005	112	48	47	15	5	3	3	18	251
2006	88	68	29	12	14	3	3	13	230
2007	103	56	36	22	15	1	0	17	250
2008	78	68	43	7	13	3	2	9	223
2009	88	82	33	8	35	2	10	23	281
2010	66	77	49	10	22	1	7	12	244
2011	77	56	33	11	14	1	5	11	208
2012	70	51	33	11	25	1	4	12	207
TOTAL	1126	590	647	197	179	57	42	182	3020

Data Source: KidsAndCars.org Database

These data vastly underestimate the true magnitude of non-traffic fatal incidents involving children. This chart represents the incidents KidsAndCars.org has documented involving children < 15 years of age.

KidsAndCars.org recommendations to keep children safe include:

- Walk around and behind a vehicle prior to moving it.
- Know where your kids are. Make children move away from your vehicle to a place where they are in full view before moving the car and know that another adult is properly supervising children before moving your vehicle.
- Teach children that “parked” vehicles might move. Let them know that they can see the vehicle; but the driver might not be able to see them.
- Consider installing cross view mirrors, audible collision detectors, rear view video camera and/or some type of back up detection device.
- Measure the size of your blind zone (area) behind the vehicle(s) you drive. A 5-foot-1-inch driver in a pickup truck can have a rear blind zone of approximately 8 feet wide by 50 feet long.
- Be aware that steep inclines and large SUV’s, vans and trucks add to the difficulty of seeing behind a vehicle.
- Hold children’s hand when leaving the vehicle.
- Teach your children to never play in, around or behind a vehicle and always set the emergency brake.
- Keep toys and other sports equipment off the driveway.
- Homeowners should trim landscaping around the driveway to ensure they can see the sidewalk, street and pedestrians clearly when backing out of their driveway. Pedestrians also need to be able to see a vehicle pulling out of the driveway.
- Never leave children alone in or around cars; not even for a minute.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway.
- Keys and/or remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- Make sure all child passengers have left the car after it is parked.
- Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays.

These precautions can save lives. For additional information visit www.KidsAndCars.org

Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness

Courtesy of Pima County Sheriff's Department

Throughout human history there have been many threats to the security of nations. These threats have brought about large-scale losses of life, destruction of property, widespread illness and injury, the displacement of large numbers of people, and devastating economic loss. Over the past few years, our Country has been faced with an ever increasing risk to our national security.

Improving our national preparedness is not just a job for the professionals - law enforcement, firefighters, medical personnel - all Americans should be aware of potential threats so that we are all better prepared to react to any type of disaster, whether human- or nature-caused.

Every family should have the following in place:

- Emergency Disaster Kit
- Family Communications Plan

An Emergency Disaster Kit should be filled with items needed to sustain your family for at least three (3) days. Every kit, at minimum, should contain the following:

- Bottled water - one gallon per person per day. Change-out your water supply every six (6) months.
- Prescription medications for all family members. Replace as recommended by your physician.
- Battery powered radio
- Check and/or replace batteries every 3-4 months.
- Identification for all family members (copies are acceptable)
- Cash (ATMs may not be operational)
- First-Aid Kit
- Change of clothing for all family members - update regularly
- Extra batteries - replace annually
- Flashlight
- Non-perishable food items
- Rotate stored food items every six (6) months.
- Manual can opener
- Blankets
- Personal hygiene items - toilet paper, soap, disinfectant, etc.
- Assortment of miscellaneous tools
- Special needs items for any family member
- Entertainment items - books, games, etc.

Emergency Disaster Kit items should be placed in individual air-tight plastic bags and then all assembled in a waterproof container. The kit should be stored in a convenient place and all family members should know the location. It is a good idea to store a mini-Emergency Disaster Kit in the trunk of all vehicles. You may not be home when a disaster hits.

Family Communications Plan

Before an emergency situation occurs, families should discuss what each person should do in that type of situation. Families may be apart when disaster strikes - how will you find your family members? Where will the family meet or go if home is not an option? These types of questions should be addressed now so that your family can exert a measure of control in the face of a crisis.

- Choose an out-of-town friend as a "check-in contact"
- Provide all family members with the contact person's telephone numbers and e-mail address.
- Establish two (2) pre-determined meeting places
- A location near your home, but a safe distance away in case of fire.
- An alternate site, in case the first is inaccessible.
- Know your children's school emergency plan
- Know how to shut off water, gas, and electricity at your home
- Learn C.P.R.
- Designate who is responsible for the Emergency Disaster Kit

With a little planning and common sense, we can all be better prepared for the unexpected.



Ask & Answer



As a police officer, I get asked law enforcement questions almost everywhere I go. So here is your chance to send in your questions and I will publish them with an answer either from me or a fellow officer who is an expert in that field.

Q: Do the police patrol our area every night?

A: There are four beats in Oro Valley and officers are assigned a beat to patrol each shift. Although, police officers drive around, it is not guaranteed that they will drive down your specific neighborhood every night.

Q: We have some volunteers that live in our subdivision. Are they working directly with the police or are they assigned just as "good will" to the neighbors?

A: Oro Valley Police Department Citizen Volunteer Auxiliary Program (CVAP) are volunteers 50 years old and older. They work in various capacities to assist officers and the police department. They do not have any law enforcement powers. CVAP assist officers with traffic control, waiting for tow trucks, and patrolling shopping centers. If a volunteer comes upon a situation that requires law enforcement action they have police radios and contact a police officer to respond. Volunteers also assist with fingerprinting, special events, the Dark House Program, and the front desk. These are just a few of the many areas that our volunteers work.

Q: Who has the right of way, a person making a u-turn on a green arrow/light or a person making a right turn on a red light?

A: Per Lead Motor Officer R. Trevizo, the person making the u-turn on a green arrow has the right of way. The person making a right hand turn on a red light must yield the right of way until it is safe to proceed. If these two vehicles had a collision, the person making a right hand turn on red would be at fault.

Q: With the stand your ground law, what should a resident do if they witness someone breaking into a car or home in their neighborhood?

A: I always advise on what is the safest thing. First ask yourself, is there someone's life at risk? Material things can be replaced, people can not. Second, ask yourself what are you willing and capable of doing? So I leave you with this, be a great witness. Get a good description of the person(s) and vehicle(s) involved, direction traveled and CALL 911. Let the police officers handle the situation. We are well trained and have the tools necessary to confront these situations. This is what we signed up for.

The "stand your ground law" and the "castle doctrine" are terms that describe laws that provide

Mark Your Calendar

Dispose-A-Med Oro Valley

February 15	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
June 21	8 a.m. - noon
August 16	8 a.m. - noon
December 6	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: Target (First & Oracle)

National Dispose-A-Med

April	TBD
October	TBD



Ask & Answer Continued

justification for you to protect your home and property. The laws that are equivalent in Arizona are ARS 13-407 use of physical force in defense of premises, ARS 13-408 use of physical force in defense of property, ARS 13-418 defense of residential structure or occupied vehicles.

If you choose to take action, these are the laws that protect those rights. You will still need to defend your actions to a jury of your peers.

For details see: <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp>

Q: If someone breaks into your home while you are there what are your options?

A: This is a more complicated question than it appears. There are so many variables. Are you home alone? Are there family, small children, bedridden individuals home? Are there weapons in the home and accessible? How well trained are you with weapons? What are your capabilities? Weapons can be taken away and used against you. Are you trained in martial arts or would you “never hurt fly”? In this situation, I believe you are protecting life, not property or your premises. Are you able to leave the residence, hide, lock yourself in a room, etc.?

A simple answer is you can do what is necessary to protect yourself or others.

ARS 13-404 Justification; self-defense and ARS 13-405 Justification; use of deadly physical force states:

A person is justified in threatening; using physical force or deadly physical force against another when and to the extent a reasonable person would believe that physical force or deadly physical force is immediately necessary to protect themselves against the other’s use or attempted use of unlawful physical force or deadly physical force.

Send your questions to neighborhood_watch@ovpd.org.



Contact Information

OVPD Crime Prevention Unit
Northside Substation
1171 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd., Suite 115
Oro Valley, AZ 85755
(520) 229-5080
(520) 229-5090 fax

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sgt. Amy Graham
(520) 229-5081
agraham@orovalleyaz.gov

Ofc. Vivian Lopez
(520) 229-5085
vlopez@orovalleyaz.gov

Ofc. Rick Rendon
(520) 229-5084
rrendon@orovalleyaz.gov

