

# Community Newsletter

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**Sheriff's Office**

541-440-4450



**Dispatch Non-Emergency**

541-440-4471

**Emergency**

9-1-1

**Community Outreach**

Andrea Zielinski

541-440-4486

**Records Division**

541-440-4463

**Civil Processing**

541-440-4468

**Patrol Division**

541-440-4457

**Investigations**

541-440-4458

**Drug Activity Tip Line**

541-440-4474

**Search and Rescue**

541-440-4448

**Marine Patrol**

541-440-4447

**Douglas County Jail**

541-440-4440

**Animal Control**

541-440-4327

**Concealed Handgun Licensing**

541-957-2021

## Fake Check Scams



If someone you don't know wants to pay you by check but wants you to wire some of the money back, beware! It's a scam that could cost you thousands of dollars.

There are many variations of the fake check scam. It could start with someone offering to buy something you advertised, pay you to do work at home, give you an "advance" to work as a "mystery shopper", or pay the first installment on the millions that you'll receive for agreeing to have money in a foreign country transferred

to your bank account for safekeeping. Whatever the pitch, the person may sound quite believable.

**Fake check scammers hunt for victims.** They scan newspaper and online advertisements for people listing items for sale, and check postings on online job sites from people seeking employment. They place their own ads with phone numbers or email addresses for people to contact them. And they call or send emails or faxes to people randomly, knowing that some will take the bait.

**They often claim to be in another country.** The scammers say it's too difficult and complicated to send you the money directly from their country, so they'll arrange for someone in the U.S. to send you a check.

**They tell you to wire money to them after you've deposited the check.** If you're selling something, they say they'll pay you by having someone in the U.S. who owes *them* money send you a check. It will be for more than the sale price; you deposit the check, keep what you're owed, and wire the rest to them. If it's part of a work-at-home scheme, they may claim that you'll be processing checks from their "clients." You deposit the checks and then wire them the money minus your "pay." Or they may send you a check for more than your pay "by mistake" and ask you to wire them the excess. In the sweepstakes and foreign money offer variations of the scam, they tell you to wire them money for taxes, customs, bonding, processing, legal fees, or other expenses that must be paid before you can get the rest of the money.

**The checks are fake but they look real.** In fact, they look so real that even bank tellers may be fooled. Some are phony cashier's checks, others look like they're from legitimate business accounts. The companies whose names appear may be real, but someone has dummied up the checks without their knowledge.

**You don't have to wait long to use the money, but that doesn't mean the check is good.** Under federal law, banks have to make the funds you deposit available quickly – usually within one to five days, depending on the type of check. But just because you can withdraw the money doesn't mean the check is good, even if it's a cashier's check. It can take weeks for the forgery to be discovered and the check to bounce.

**You are responsible for the checks you deposit.** When a check bounces, the bank deducts the amount that was originally credited to your account. If there isn't enough to cover it, the bank may be able to take money from other accounts you have at that institution.

**Don't deposit it – report it!** There is *no* legitimate reason for someone who is giving you money to ask you to wire money back. Report fake check scams to your local law enforcement agency.

## Summertime Scams—Consumer Beware!



Your home may be your most important asset. That is why it is so important to do your homework before you hire someone to start working on your home. You should try to prevent costly and irreparable damage before it happens.

Construction contractors must be licensed, bonded and insured in Oregon. You can check to see if a contractor is licensed by going to the Oregon Construction Contractors Board (CCB) website at <http://www.oregon.gov/CCB/> or by calling the CCB at 503-378-4621. A devious contractor may tell you that he or she is licensed or may give you a false or outdated CCB license number, so make sure to check on your own.

Before you hire a contractor, ask friends and family for recommendations. Also check with the CCB, the Better Business Bureau - at (503) 226-3981 - and the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to see if any consumer complaints have been filed against a contractor.

Before you hire a contractor, get at least three bids from different contractors. These bids should all be in writing. The lowest bid may not always be the best bid. Make sure to compare what work is being done and what materials are being used.

You should always sign a contract that clearly states the work to be done, when it will be done and how much it costs. If possible, try to limit the amount of money you will pay upfront and do not make the final payment unless you are satisfied with the work done, as your contract permits. If it is a long project, you may want the contract to state that you will make payments during the course of the project when certain pre-specified work is completed.

In Oregon, landscape contractors must also be licensed and must be operating through a landscape business that is licensed, bonded and insured. You should take the same steps as recommended above when hiring a landscape contractor. In addition to checking with the CCB, you should also check with the Landscape Contractors Board (LCB) at (503) 378-5909.

If you are a victim of a scam or fraud, don't delay, call:

Consumer Protection Hotline  
1-877-877-9392 (toll free)  
[www.doj.state.or.us](http://www.doj.state.or.us)

## Five Easy Ideas to Enhance the Safety of Your Home

1. Check to make sure all of your locks in your house, windows and doors are in working order. **Then make sure you use them.**
2. Put wooden dowels in your windows so they can be partially open (3-4 inches) to let a breeze in without being left fully open and vulnerable.
3. Trim bushes and foliage below window level to allow visibility in and out.
4. Remove the hidden spare key from under the mat, in the flower pot, over the door or in the fake rock and put in a lock box.
5. Replace screws in door latch plates with 2 ½ to 3 inch screws. These will screw into the studs and make it much harder for someone to easily kick in a door.

**In Douglas County, more break-ins occur from unlocked or open windows or doors than from forced entries. Remember to USE THOSE LOCKS!**

## Internet Tips for Parents

Just as we tell our children to be wary of strangers they meet, we need to tell them to be wary of strangers on the Internet. Most people behave reasonably and decently online, but some are rude, mean, or even criminal. Teach your children that they should:



- **Never** give out personal information (including their name, home address, phone number, age, race, family income, school name or location, or friends' names) or use a credit card online without your permission.
- **Never** share their password, even with friends.
- **Never** arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet online unless you approve of the meeting and go with them to a public place.
- **Never** respond to messages that make them feel confused or uncomfortable. They should ignore the sender, end the communication, and tell you or another trusted adult right away.
- **Never** use bad language or send mean messages online.

Also, make sure your children know that people they meet online are not always who they say they are and that online information is not necessarily private.

## IM Speech for Dummies

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office encourages parents to monitor their kids' Instant Messaging (IM) chats. However, it is so common to type in slang that unless parents are familiar with it, trying to read IM chats can be impossible. To save time, and conceal what they are typing, IM users will type in abbreviated speech. The number of abbreviated words is endless, with new ones created daily. The following are twenty common IM abbreviations:

- ROTFLOL: Roll on the Floor, Laughing Out Loud
- BRB: Be Right Back
- POS: Parent Over Shoulder
- WTGP: Want to Go Private
- TAW: Teachers are Watching
- LMIRL: Let's Meet in Real Life
- IMHO: In My Humble Opinion
- YBS: You'll Be Sorry
- KOTC: Kiss on the Cheek
- 121: One to One
- PIR: Parent in Room
- WUF: Where are You From?
- ASLMH: Age, Sex, Location., Music, and Hobbies
- G2G: Got to Go
- P911: My Parents are Coming
- OIC: Oh I see
- SN: Screen Name
- H8U: I Hate You
- L8tr: Later
- MUSM: Miss You So Much

Users will also substitute letters in place of whole words: R= Are, U= You, C= See, and O= Oh

To learn more about Internet Speech visit the website: [www.noslang.com](http://www.noslang.com). This website provides a comprehensive list of slang terms, a slang translator, and articles for parents to better understand Internet lingo. CAUTION: Since many abbreviations were created to hide hurtful, or sexual messages, many of the abbreviations are off color or vulgar.

# Crime Report —Unincorporated Douglas County May 1-31, 2008

## Burglaries

1500 block Glide Loop Dr., Glide  
500 block Upper Smith River Rd., Drain  
500 block Newton Creek Rd., Roseburg  
700 block Elgarose Rd., Roseburg  
2600 block Nonpareil Rd., Sutherlin  
100 block Long St., Canyonville  
100 block Lawson Bar Rd., Canyonville

400 block Happy Valley Rd., Roseburg  
600 block Brockway Rd., Winston  
1300 block S HWY 99, Green  
2800 block Dole Rd., Myrtle Creek  
900 block Seeley Ave., Myrtle Creek  
200 block Adams St., Myrtle Creek  
200 block Mona St., Myrtle Creek  
600 block Sol Abraham Ave., Glendale  
400 block Barton Rd., Azalea

18000 block N. Umpqua Hwy., Glide  
200 block Upper Smith River Rd., Drain  
300 block Currier St., Roseburg  
18000 block Dixonville Rd., Roseburg  
1500 block S. Deer Creek Rd., Roseburg  
3600 block Joseph St., Roseburg  
3100 block Nonpareil Rd., Sutherlin

200 block Plat I Rd., Sutherlin  
200 block Ash St., Green

1900 block Larson Rd., Green

4200 block Stella St., Green

100 block Karuk Ln., Green

100 block N. Main St., Canyonville

200 block N. Main St., Canyonville

300 block N. Main St., Canyonville

200 block D Lee Ln., Myrtle Creek

## Thefts

77000 block Hwy 101, Gardiner  
1500 block Salmon Harbor Dr., Winchester Bay  
500 block Transfer Rd., Yoncalla  
200 block N. First St., Drain  
400 block Clarice Ln., Roseburg  
2200 block North Bank Rd., Roseburg  
4600 block Carnes Rd., Green  
100 block Clellon Ct., Green

## Thefts from Motor Vehicle

100 block Idleyld Park Ln, Idleyld Park  
500 block Rod & Gun Club Rd., Canyonville  
100 block S. "D" St., Riddle

## Criminal Mischief

2000 block Salmon Harbor Rd., Winchester Bay



## DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Jim Burge  
1036 SE Douglas Ave.  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

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[www.dcsso.com](http://www.dcsso.com)