

Subject: July/August 2026 CrimeFighter Newsletter

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 12:31:28 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: Oro Valley Police Department

To: Michael@RedCoyoteServices.com

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Contact us:



During Arizona summers, temperatures soar well

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above 100 degrees. What might seem like just a few minutes inside a car can quickly turn into a life-threatening situation. Even on mild or cloudy days, the temperature inside a vehicle can reach fatal levels.

Children and pets are particularly vulnerable because they cannot unlock car doors or escape car seats. According to the National Safety Council, children's bodies heat up much faster than adults'. A child's internal organs begin to shut down once their core body temperature reaches 104 degrees. On an 85-degree day, it takes about 10 minutes for the temperature inside a vehicle to reach 105 degrees.

On average, **38 children die each year** from heatstroke after being left in a vehicle. That's one child every nine days. Every single one of these deaths is preventable.

After years of study, scientists have identified why parents typically leave kids in hot cars and what can be done to prevent it. Researchers at the University of South Florida found that a deviation from routine is the most common factor in cases where parents forget a child in the car. It's not carelessness—it's a failure of the memory system to recognize a change in the norm.

KidsAndCars.org recommends these safety tips:

- **Always lock your car**, even if you don't have children.
- **Keep keys and remotes out of children's reach.**
- **Place a necessary item**—like a purse, briefcase, or shoe—in the back seat with your child.
- **If a child is missing**, immediately check all vehicles, including trunks.
- **Teach kids to honk the horn** if they become trapped.
- **If you see a child or pet alone in a vehicle**, check for signs of distress. If they appear unresponsive, call 911 immediately.

Arizona's **Good Samaritan Law** protects individuals from civil liability if, under certain circumstances, they break a window to rescue a child or animal in danger from a locked

vehicle. Learn more about the law here: <https://www.azleg.gov/ars/12/00558-02.htm>

These simple actions can prevent tragedies and save lives.

Monsoon Driving Safety



Severe weather is a regular part of life in the Sonoran Desert. During monsoon season—June through September—dust storms, thunderstorms, heavy rain, lightning, high winds, and flash floods are common and can make driving especially dangerous. Unfortunately, many people don't think about safety until it's too late. Preparing ahead of time is essential.

To stay safe, always keep extra supplies in your vehicle, including a fully charged cell phone, drinking water, and an emergency kit in case you become stranded. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) offers the following monsoon driving safety tips:

1. **When in doubt, wait it out.** Stay off the roads if a storm is approaching.
2. **Caught in a storm?** Turn on headlights, slow down, and maintain a safe distance.
3. **Treat intersections with out-of-service traffic lights as four-way stops.**
4. **If visibility drops to near zero,** pull as far off the road as possible, turn off all

lights, set your parking brake, and remove your foot from the brake pedal.

5. **Never cross a flooded wash.** Just 6 inches of water can cause loss of control, and 2 feet can float most vehicles.
6. **Obey all warning signs and barriers.** Ignoring them is not only dangerous but can result in fines and liability for rescue costs.
7. **Beware of hydroplaning.** Wet roads reduce traction—slow down and avoid sudden braking.

Stay alert, be prepared, and make smart decisions to keep yourself and others safe this monsoon season.

Back to School Safety



It's hard to believe summer is winding down already. Before we know it, students will be heading back to school during the first week of August. School buses will be picking up passengers, kids will be riding bicycles and hurrying to get to class before the bell rings, and parents will be rushing to drop off their children before work. There is never a more important time for drivers to slow down, eliminate distractions, and stay alert than when children are present—especially before and after school.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, most children killed while walking to or from school are age 10 to 18 and walking near roadways. **Significantly, pedestrians who are distracted with cell phones or ear buds while walking are nearly four times more likely to be involved in an accident.**

A few simple precautions can make a big difference in keeping kids safe:

- **Slow down in school zones and neighborhoods**, especially during morning and afternoon hours.
- **Keep an eye out at crosswalks** for students walking or biking to school.
- **Don't block the crosswalk** when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a right turn, and yield to pedestrians who have the right of way.
- **Vehicles MUST stop** when school bus lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.
- Parents, talk to your children about staying alert and avoiding distractions while walking to school. **Heads up, phones down!**

Start Your Engines Ladies!



Are you aware that the Oro Valley Police Department, in partnership with Catalina Towing & Recovery, hosts a women's-only automotive care class? It's true! Several times throughout the year, we host a class at the police department that provides ladies

a hands-on experience in basic automotive maintenance. This class helps empower participants by giving them the confidence to understand how vehicles operate, to perform light maintenance, and gives them an understanding of technical jargon that mechanics may use.

Participants will learn the following:

- The basic understanding of how an engine works
- The basic understanding of braking systems
- How to change a tire
- How to check fluids and add if necessary
- How to check belts
- How to check fuses
- How to replace wiper blades
- Battery maintenance

These classes are limited to 18 participants, so you must register in order to get a spot. Our next class is coming up on **Thursday, August 6th**. To get registered, email the Community Resources Unit at CRU@orovalleyaz.gov.

Question & Answer



Have you ever wanted to ask a police officer a question but never had the opportunity to do so? Ever wondered why a cop did what they did? Have a question about traffic? Here is your chance to send in your questions, and we may publish them with an answer from an officer with expertise in that area.

Stephanie from Oro Valley asks: I like seeing the crime statistics every month. Can you tell me the difference between Robbery, Burglary and Theft?

Answer: In Arizona, the difference comes down to **how the property is taken:**

- **Robbery** is taking property directly from a person by using or threatening force. For example, demanding someone's wallet at gunpoint, robbing a bank with a threatening note, or even threatening a store employee while shoplifting.
 - **Burglary** is unlawfully entering or remaining in a structure, vehicle, or fenced yard with the intent to commit a theft or another felony inside. A burglary does not require stealing anything—entering with criminal intent is enough.
 - **Theft** is knowingly taking or controlling someone else's property without lawful authority with the intent to permanently deprive the owner of it. No force or unlawful entry is required. Examples include shoplifting, stealing a bicycle, or taking a package from a porch.
-

Steve from Oro Valley asks: Is there a requirement in Oro Valley (or Pima County or Arizona) that emergency vehicles on a call must use their sirens? Those sirens are used in the middle of the night when there's little traffic. I find them very disturbing to an otherwise peaceful Oro Valley. I think that those sirens would result in only a very slight increase in safety when flashing lights are so obvious during the night time.

Answer: This is a fair question, and the answer is **yes—but not always**. Arizona law does not require emergency vehicles to use their sirens continuously during every emergency response. Instead, the law requires the driver to sound an audible signal (siren, bell, or whistle) "**as reasonably necessary**" while responding to an emergency, in immediate pursuit of a violator, or when necessary to pull over a vehicle (A.R.S. § 28-624, § 28-954(E)).

In practice, on an empty roadway at 2:00 a.m., an officer, firefighter, or paramedic may use the siren sparingly. However, when approaching intersections, blind curves, other traffic, or traveling at high speeds, sirens are generally used because many drivers don't

notice emergency lights alone—especially if they're distracted, have their windows up, or are listening to music.

In law enforcement, a siren can also be a **purposeful tactical tool**. In crimes in progress like an assault, street fight, or domestic violence incident, the sound of an approaching siren may cause an aggressor to stop or flee immediately, potentially de-escalating the situation before officers even arrive. Sirens can also reassure victims that help is coming, which can provide a measure of comfort during a frightening and uncertain situation. While sirens can certainly be disruptive late at night, the safety of the public and the emergency responders responding to those calls must take precedence over the temporary inconvenience of the noise.

If you have a question you would like to submit, email it to CRU@orovalleyaz.gov.

Crime Statistics (February – April 2026)			
The following statistics are provided to inform citizens of criminal activity occurring in your community.			
	April	May	June
Total Calls for Service	1351	1321	1266
Homicides	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	1
Assaults	16	8	13
Burglaries	4	1	1
Thefts	29	30	34
Vehicle Thefts	1	4	1
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	1	2	0
DUI	10	16	13
Drug Offenses	36	42	34
Total Arrests	124	120	138
Residential Alarms	29	42	33
Business Alarms	30	33	38
First Aid Calls	38	30	42
Fatal Collisions	0	1	0
Collisions	51	55	42
Traffic Citations	231	234	269

Upcoming Events

OVPD Citizen Academy

Date: August 25 – November 17, 2026

Time: Every Tuesday from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Location: Venue details provided upon registration

Details: A free, 12-week educational course designed to give the public a behind-the-scenes look at the OVPD. Classes are taught by sworn officers and civilian staff on all areas of the department, including Patrol, Criminal Investigations, SWAT, EOD, Records, and more! For more information, email us at CRU@orovalleyaz.gov.

Free Sandbags for OV Residents

Date: Now through September 30, 2026

Time: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Location: Naranja Park (810 W. Naranja Drive, between archery range and dog parks)

Details: Free sandbags are self-service. Bring your own shovel. Limit of 10 bags. If you require assistance, you can make an appointment by calling 520-229-4850.

National Night Out 2026

Date: Friday, October 23, 2026

Time: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Location: Walmart Supercenter parking lot (2150 E. Tangerine Road)

Details: A FREE event with over 50 law enforcement displays, helicopters, fire trucks, food trucks, free candy, an obstacle course, and awesome raffle prizes! Wear your costumes!

Sign Up for CrimeFighter Newsletter!

If you would like to automatically receive the CrimeFighter Newsletter via email every month, scan the QR code below or click [HERE](#) to sign up. Remember to select the "Public Safety & Crime Prevention" box.

Alternatively, you can sign up by going to the Town of Oro Valley website (orovalleyaz.gov), click on the News tab, and click on "Subscribe to get news and event updates". Remember to select the "Public Safety & Crime Prevention" box.



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