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ORO VALLEY CRIMEFIGHTER

The Safety Newsletter of the Oro Valley Police Department

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Contact us:



Main Lobby:

11000 N. La Cañada Drive

24 Hour Non-Emergency:

(520) 229-4900

Deed and Title Fraud



Imagine discovering that someone has filed paperwork claiming ownership of your home or is attempting to sell property you never put on the market. While deed and title fraud is not an everyday occurrence, the consequences for victims can be serious and costly.

Deed or title fraud occurs when someone uses forged documents, stolen personal information, or a false identity to fraudulently transfer, sell, or claim an interest in property they do not own. A criminal may

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borrow money using someone else's property.

Vacant land, rental properties, second homes, and properties owned free and clear are particularly attractive targets because fraudulent activity can be more difficult for the legitimate owner to notice.

Protect Yourself

- **Check your property records** periodically to make sure the ownership and mailing information is correct. Search for your property using your name, address, or parcel number at www.asr.pima.gov.
- **Pay attention to unexpected notices** involving changes in ownership, liens, loans, or mailing addresses.
- **Protect your personal information** from phishing scams and other attempts to obtain identifying or financial information.
- **Sign up for the following free property alerts** so you can quickly identify suspicious activity involving your property.

Free Property Alert Programs

Arizona Early Real Estate Sales Alert System (ERAS): The Arizona Department of Real Estate allows property owners to register their name, property address, and/or Assessor Parcel Number and receive an email or text alert when a matching property is reported as part of a pending real estate sale. Register for free at earlyalert.azre.gov.

Pima County Recorder Fraud Notify: Property owners can register their name and receive an email notification when a document containing that name is recorded with the Pima County Recorder's Office. Visit recorder.pima.gov/FraudNotify to register.

The **Pima County Assessor's Deed Fraud Prevention Program** provides an additional safeguard by requiring identity verification for property mailing-address changes and notifying the previous address when a change occurs.

No system can completely prevent deed fraud, but monitoring your property and taking advantage of these free services can help you identify suspicious activity early—before it becomes a much larger problem.

Disaster Preparedness



Southern Arizona's natural beauty comes with its share of hazards. Our desert landscapes bring brilliant sunsets and sunshine, but they also carry risks—from extreme heat and wildfires to flash floods, dust storms, and power outages. September is recognized as National Disaster Preparedness Month, making it the perfect time to review your plans and ensure your family is ready for the unexpected.

Being prepared for a disaster is crucial for safeguarding your home and family. Disasters can strike with little warning, so having a well-thought-out plan is essential. Here are some practical tips to help you prepare your home for emergencies:

1. **Create a Family Emergency Plan** - Talk with your family about what to do in different scenarios. Identify safe meeting places, evacuation routes, and how you will communicate if local phone lines are down. Designate an out-of-town contact who can serve as a communication hub if needed.
2. **Build an Emergency Kit** - Assemble a kit that will sustain your household for at least three days. Include bottled water (one gallon per person per day), non-perishable food, a manual can opener, first-aid supplies, medications, flashlights, batteries, hygiene products, and a battery-powered radio. Keep everything in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container.
3. **Protect Your Home** - Check that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are working, and replace batteries regularly. For wildfire safety, clear dry vegetation around your property and create a defensible space. In flood-prone areas, consider sandbags and elevating electrical systems.
4. **Prepare for Extreme Heat** - Southern Arizona is no stranger to scorching summers. Keep fans or portable air conditioners on hand, and know the locations of nearby cooling centers. Store plenty of water and electrolyte drinks, and learn the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke so you can respond quickly.

emergency notifications through calls, texts, emails, and social media.

Visit orovalleyaz.gov and search for "CodeRED" to register.

Being prepared gives you peace of mind and helps keep your family safe when emergencies arise. This month, take time to review your plans, restock supplies, and talk with your family about preparedness. A little effort today can make all the difference tomorrow.

Proposition 431: OV's Path Forward

It's time to vote on Oro Valley's future!

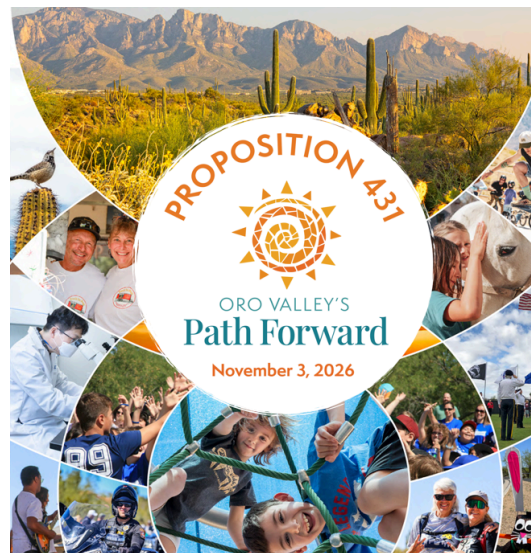
Proposition 431: OV's Path Forward is on the ballot this November. This is Oro Valley's General Plan, created with extensive input from residents, that will help guide the Town over the next 10 years.

OV's Path Forward reflects residents' priorities for the future of our community, including ensuring Oro Valley remains a safe community, conserving our scenic views, maintaining quality parks, and supporting local businesses. If approved by voters, the plan will establish goals and policies addressing water, economic development, housing, roads and transportation, public safety, and other issues that influence Oro Valley's quality of life.

For the Oro Valley Police Department, public safety is an important part of that vision. The General Plan recognizes the importance of maintaining a safe community while preparing for Oro Valley's needs over the next decade.

Before casting your ballot, take 10 minutes to learn more about **Proposition 431: OV's Path Forward** and the goals and policies that could help shape Oro Valley's next 10 years.

Read the plan at OVPathForward.com.



OV Safe Return

Did you know that the Oro Valley Police Department offers a program specifically

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program is a community resource service for vulnerable individuals who live, work, attend school, or receive treatment in the Town of Oro Valley. This includes, but is not limited to, children or adults who have a diagnosis of:

- Alzheimer's
- Dementia
- Autism
- Down Syndrome

The Safe Return program provides parents and caregivers with a way to share crucial information with police officers who may respond to calls involving these individuals. The registration form collects information about the vulnerable person, their parent or responsible caregiver, and additional emergency contacts.



The form also gathers details that can help responding officers interact more effectively with the individual, such as preferred communication methods, special interests or hobbies, places they may be drawn to, and suggestions for the best way for officers to approach them. Current photographs of the registered individual are also collected to assist officers in locating the person if they ever go missing.

If you have any questions or are interested in registering someone in the OV Safe Return program, please contact the OVPD Community Resources Unit at CRU@orovalleyaz.gov or (520) 229-5080.

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.

Skip from Oro Valley asks: What is the proper way to merge when you're entering a construction zone? In other states, people seem to know how to merge efficiently, but here in Arizona it seems like everyone gets in one lane two miles back and then gets upset when you try to pass them.

Answer: When approaching a lane closure, the most efficient method is called the **zipper merge**. Rather than immediately getting into the open lane as soon as you see a "Lane Closed Ahead" sign, drivers should continue using **both lanes up to the designated merge point**.

At the merge point, drivers should take turns—one vehicle from the open lane, followed by one vehicle from the closing lane—just like the teeth of a zipper coming together.

The zipper merge helps use all available roadway space, reduces the length of traffic backups, and keeps vehicles moving more efficiently. When drivers merge too early, one lane can become backed up for a considerable distance while the other lane remains unused. Drivers who continue in the open lane to the merge point may appear to be "cutting in line," but they are actually using the roadway correctly.

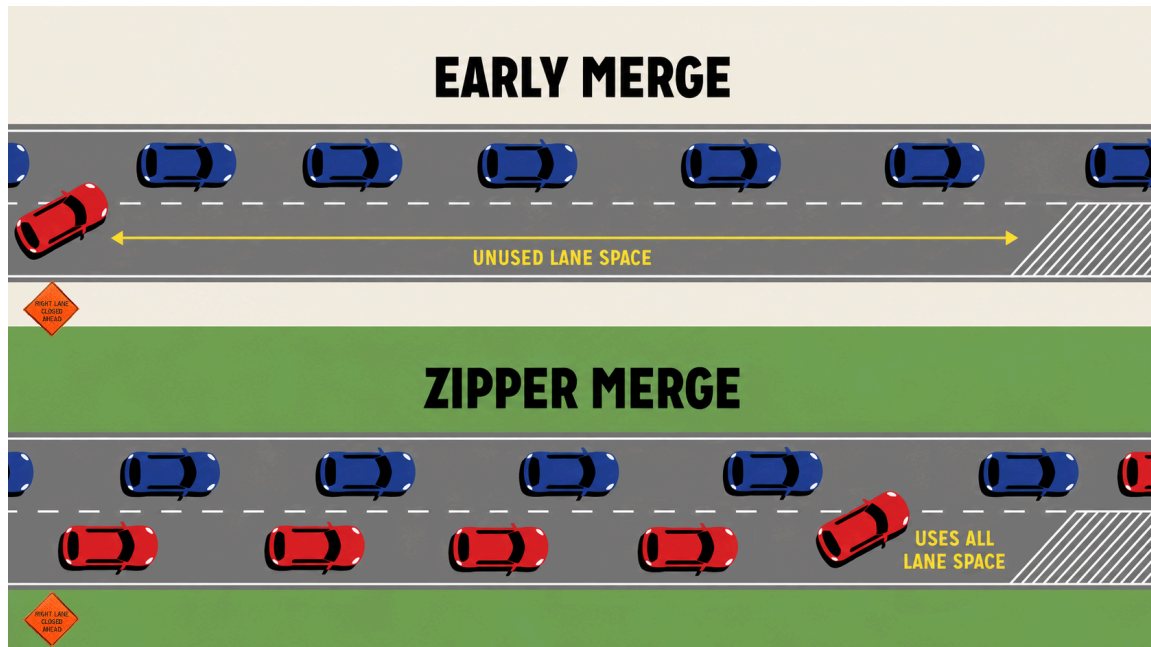
A few things to remember:

- **Use both lanes** until you reach the merge point.
- **Maintain a safe and consistent speed** rather than racing ahead.

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- **Follow all signs, flaggers, and traffic-control devices** in the construction zone.

The zipper merge works best when everyone participates. Using both lanes and taking turns at the merge point can help reduce backups and make construction zones safer and more efficient for everyone.



Bob from Oro Valley asks: More than once, I've been surprised by the reactions some drivers have to emergency vehicles with their lights and sirens on. Some drivers slam on their brakes and veer off the roadway, even in situations where there is a median. Other drivers just stop in the road. These sudden and unpredictable moves have nearly caused me to get in an accident. Could you explain the proper way to react when an emergency vehicle approaches?

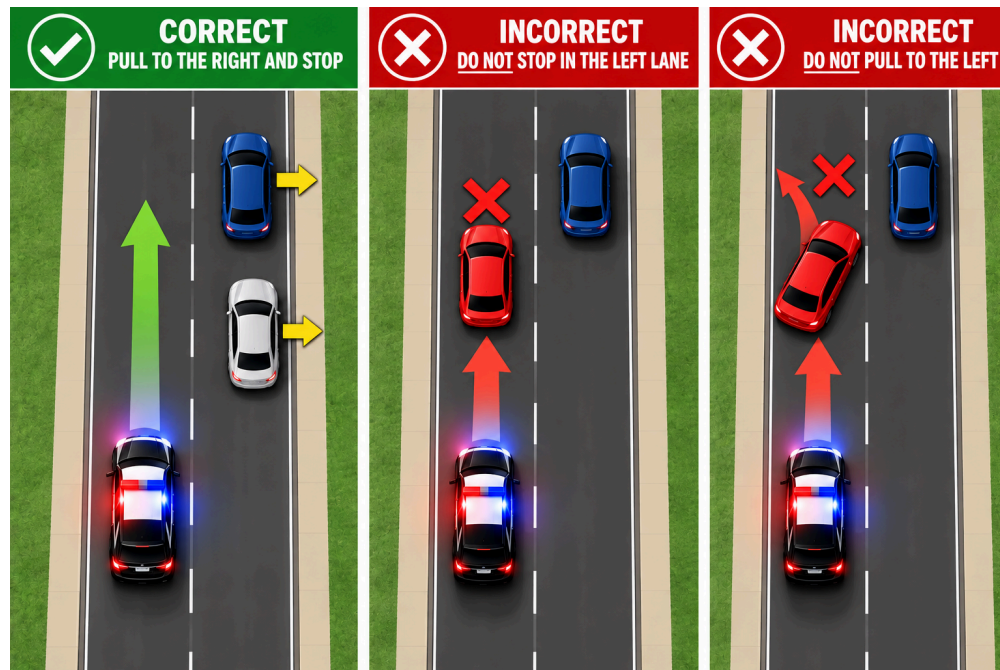
Answer: When an emergency vehicle approaches with its lights and siren activated, **stay calm and be predictable.** Under **A.R.S. § 28-775**, drivers must yield, move as close as possible to the right side of the roadway, and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed.

If the emergency vehicle is **approaching from behind**, safely pull to the right and stop. If you're stuck in traffic, move as far right as you safely can. Emergency vehicles generally use the **leftmost lane**, so don't stop in that lane and block their path.

For an **oncoming emergency vehicle on an undivided roadway**, pull to the right and stop. If there is a **raised median or divided roadway**, you generally don't need to stop, but remain alert in case the emergency vehicle needs to turn across your direction of

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Most importantly, **don't panic, slam on your brakes, or make sudden movements.** Move right, stop, and give the emergency vehicle room to pass.



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

Crime Statistics (June – August 2026)

The following statistics are provided to inform citizens of criminal activity occurring in your community.

	June	July	Aug
Total Calls for Service	1266	1243	1358
Homicides	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0
Assaults	13	11	9
Burglaries	1	1	0
Thefts	34	48	69
Vehicle Thefts	1	1	0
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	0	1	0
DUI	13	12	19
Drug Offenses	34	22	31
Total Arrests	138	135	136
Residential Alarms	33	38	57

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	Fatal Collisions	0	0	0	
	Collisions	42	26	48	
	Traffic Citations	269	253	251	

Upcoming Events

6th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Event

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: Marana Pumpkin Patch (14950 N. Trico Road, Marana AZ)

Details: Learn more about the issue of human trafficking and how to protect your family. See law enforcement displays, games for kids, and giveaways. Entry into the Pumpkin Patch is required.

Meet and Greet @ Walmart Neighborhood Market

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026

Time: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Walmart Neighborhood Market (7951 N. Oracle Road)

Details: Come say hi to the Community Resources Unit (CRU) and our CVAP Volunteers. We will have a table set up with safety info and giveaways!

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!

Dispose A Med

Date: Saturday, October 24, 2026

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Location: OVPD Main Station (11000 N. La Canada Drive)

Details: Pills only. No liquids, creams, aerosols or sharps. Please leave medications in their original containers.

OV Bark in the Park

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2026

Time: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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dog costume contest, a doggy ball pit, and adoptable dogs on site. Dogs must be on leash.

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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