



Post Falls Police Department Crime Tip Program Public Fact Sheet

In response to the demand for alternative ways to submit crime information to authorities, the Post Falls Police Department has developed a new crime reporting service for use by the public.

1. **Text-a-crime Service:**

User types crime@pfpd.us plus their tip on their cell phone or smart phone and texts it to Post Falls Police Department Dispatch center. Once the crime text message is sent, a dispatcher will send a response to the reporting party and the appropriate resources will be dispatched.

Call 911 in an emergency

If you see a crime in progress or need to report an emergency, please call 911.

This new crime reporting service is for non-emergency information only and although your text will generate a radio call and summons the police to your location, 911 is still the best way to report in progress crimes.

Cost for text-a-crime messages

Although the program is complimentary to participants, standard text messaging rates may apply from your wireless carrier. Check with your carrier and wireless plan for details.

How to Submit a Crime report via Text Messaging

To text a tip to the Post Falls Police Department, you must have text messaging enabled on your phone and subscribe to a participating cell phone carrier.

To begin your tip session, compose a text message on your phone and in the To: section type crime@pfpd.us. Then simply type the message you wish to transmit and then click send.

While handset menus differ by carrier or model, here are some basic steps on how to compose a text message:

Find "Messaging" or "SMS" on your phone's main menu.

1. Create a new txt message or send txt or SMS text.
2. When composing your message:

- o Enter the number crime@pfpd.us as the mobile # or in the "to" line
- o Then, in the message body, type information you wish to report.
- 3. Hit "Send" to send the message.
- 4. You will receive a response from a dispatcher shortly, which will start the text dialogue.

What is Text Messaging and How Do I Know If I Can Send or Receive a Text?

Text messaging is also known as SMS or "short message service." Text messaging is a way to communicate on your mobile by sending or receiving plain text messages. We can also accept MMS messages which will allow you to send pictures or small video clips to the dispatcher.

To determine if you can send text messages, it is best to contact your wireless provider or refer to your mobile device's manual. You may be asked for your identity and location by the dispatcher in order to better respond to your message. You can remain anonymous if you wish.

Types of Crimes to Submit

The PFPD wants information on every type of crime or suspicious activity, not just those covered in the media. Please remember to call 911 to report an in progress emergency.

When to Submit a Tip

You may submit a tip anytime, anywhere, 24/7.

Alternative crime reporting methods

Users go to www.postfallspolice.com and follow the link for "Give us a Crime Tip" in the upper right hand corner of the website. The user then fills in a form and submits it via the Internet. The tip goes through a secure server where, again the identity of the sender is masked from the detectives receiving the Web tip if you wish.

You can always report crimes to the Post Falls Police Department via our main telephone number at (208) 773-3517 or our secure tip line (208) 777-COPS.