



Hoquiam Police Department

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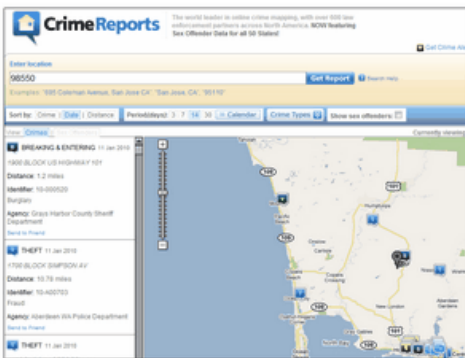
PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: Crime Reports Community Resource

Website URL: <http://crimereports.com>

Date: January 07, 2010

Hoquiam PD has joined with the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department, the Aberdeen Police Department and the Montesano Police Department to initiate crimereports.com in our area. The nationwide webpage is open and free to the public. The material in the website is public record data that is mined each day from our internal police records computer. The website posts the police incidents on a Google map that can be zoomed in or out to focus on particular areas of the city. The police incident posts on the map according to call-type and location with a small icon. By clicking on the icon, you can review the street location (down to the 100 block), the police incident number, the date of the incident, the call-type and the responsible agency.



At the top of the map, you can filter the information over the last three, seven, fourteen and thirty days. There is also a drop-down field under CRIME that allows you to select what incidents you want to have posted on the map. This allows you to look at all activity, or just select certain police incidents by their call-type.

The data for this website is dumped each night, so the department will do our best to update the call-type as accurately as possible each day. Citizens must remember that dispatch may initially enter one call type to dispatch the incident, only to be changed later when the officers actually arrive and investigate what occurred.

Many issues and problems are not as they were initially reported.

At this time, we are also working with the company to add TRAFFIC STOPS to the map as they do not seem to be populating (although they are listed as an option under the CRIME tab). The only TRAFFIC incidents that are currently mapped are those where a criminal traffic offense (arrest) was made.

One of the most interesting features of the website is the inclusion of sex offenders. By clicking on the sex offender box, the map will populate with a small RS box. By clicking on the RS box, the icon will bring up the block address of the registered sex offender, the offender's photo, name and other identifying information. The sex offender information does not come directly from our records however, as it is captured from a national database. At this time, I am not sure if the website posts ALL registered sex offenders, or just those who are level II and level III (those deemed higher risk to re-offend).

I feel that this service will not only be of benefit to our citizens, but also for in-house use as officers/ detectives track crime trends and incidents. There is also an ANALYTICS tab at the top of the map which will plot the data for you into a lineal or pie chart. The posting of this information (which is a public record) allows citizens to be accurately informed about what is happening in their neighborhoods as well as the activities of their police department.

