

FROM/DE: West Parry Sound Detachment

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AVOID UNNECESSARY 9-1-1 CALLS

(WEST PARRY SOUND, ON) – The West Parry Sound Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to 695, 9-1-1 calls between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Although this is a 48% reduction from 2014, the abuse of the 9-1-1 system continues.

Some examples of the 9-1-1 calls that Police have had to respond to in 2015:

- A man called testing his new phone
- A female called wondering when the Hydro was going to be restored
- A man called asking for the Hospital phone number
- A man called asking for a taxi

The West Parry Sound OPP would like to remind everyone that 9-1-1 is for emergencies **ONLY** and offer some tips to avoid unnecessary calls:

- Lock mobile phones or place them on “stand-by” by using the keypad lock feature. If your mobile has a 9-1-1 auto-dial feature, you may be able to disable it. Check the user manual to see if your phone has the ability;
- Don't program 9-1-1 into your speed dial. It only takes a second to dial 9-1-1;
- Do not place your cell phone in a position where keys can accidentally dial. Use a case or holster to protect it when you put it away;
- Do not let children play with a household phone or old cell phones. If a phone has a battery in it, even if it is out of minutes or does not have a contract or service, it can still dial 9-1-1.

Detachment Commander Staff Sergeant Ron Campbell says: “When a 911 call is placed, our 911 operator must stay on the line until an officer arrives and can verify there is an emergency or another non-emergency or ‘pocket-dial’ situation. This could delay those assisting people in a real emergency, putting lives at risk.”

The OPP reminds you that 1-888-310-1122 is available 24/7 for non-emergency calls for service in Ontario.