

RCMP URGING RURAL AND URBAN RESIDENTS TO USE ONLINE REPORTING



The RCMP are encouraging rural residents to make use of online crime reporting.

RCMP throughout the province are encouraging Albertans to report eligible crimes online as it benefits the police in a number of ways.

The online reporting system, which has been running since May, allows the public to report property crimes less than \$5,000, whether it is theft or mischief damage.

RCMP Const. Chantelle Kelly, of the media relations section explained how to take advantage of the crime reporting tool.

“It is specific. It has to be property crime of mischief damage to property but there is some criteria,” Kelly said. “So, if you go onto the website and look, before you continue to start inputting information, it will ask you a series of things to look at to decide if it meets the criteria or not.

“So, for example, if there are witnesses or suspects, or video surveillance — things that might need more follow up — then it doesn’t qualify. Or things like firearms or personal identity documents that were taken don’t qualify. But if it is other under \$5,000 stolen property, mischief, damage to property if it meets that criteria you can continue on and input that information into our system.”

Reporting online takes approximately 15 minutes and can be done anytime without having to attend a local detachment.

“It is for people to report crime at any time of the day, whether it be from their office or home, they don’t have to physically come into a detachment,” she added. “And also for those people that otherwise

may not have reported, perhaps they don't want to waste officer's time or they don't think it is necessary or maybe something small was taken.

"We want people to report for us to be able to look at crime trends, to allocate resources, and things like that. So we are asking people to report either way."

The important thing is to add as much detail as possible and even include photos of your lost, stolen or damaged property."

Reporting online frees up dispatchers and frontline members so they can focus on high-priority calls but it also gives the police a better picture of trends and assists in the RCMP making decisions about how and where to deploy resources.

"If we know, say there is a rash of gas being stolen or theft from motor vehicles or people checking door handles," Kelly said. "It allows us to know what is going on in a community. Maybe it is only a one off but maybe not. Maybe there's several others that haven't been reported but now are being reported.

"Other police forces have had this for quite a while, we just had this system up and running since May to allow this extra type of reporting that they otherwise wouldn't or allows them to do it from the comfort of their home and whenever they have time to do so."

The RCMP want to be responsive in the ever-changing policing needs in Alberta but they need residents to help by phoning in to report crime and suspicious activity or going online to report property crimes.

To report crimes of this nature go to: <https://ocre-sielc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/alberta/e>