



Allendale Police Department

News Release

02/19/2016

Jan 30 – Sgt. Griffith was called to a MV crash on Park Avenue. As he arrived he saw that a car had struck the curb at the intersection of West Crescent Avenue, lost control and come to rest on a stream bed, half in the water. As he spoke to the driver, he realized that he had been drinking. Sgt. Griffith placed the 49 year-old West Paterson man under arrest and had him transported to Valley Hospital to check for injuries. The man was charged with DWI and other traffic offenses.

Feb 4 – Officers responded to one of the churches in town to investigate a theft. Sometime between Jan 30 and Feb 4, someone stole an envelope with cash in it from a closet where it was being stored. The detective Bureau is investigating

Feb 4 – A resident reported that a family member was being harassed via text. Officers spoke with the resident and determined that the harasser was in a vehicle on an adjoining street. After a short conversation with the harasser, the problem was resolved.

Feb 5 – While at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Allendale Avenue watching traffic, Sgt. Lawler observed a 21 year old Borough resident turn from Allendale Ave to Franklin Turnpike at high speed and spin its tires. As a result, the driver lost control and struck the curbing on East Allendale Avenue. Sgt. Lawler investigated and found that the driver, a 21-year old male resident was intoxicated. He was brought to police HQ, where breath test results showed his blood alcohol level to be over .08%. He was issued summonses for DWI and other traffic offenses and released to a family member.

Feb 4 – Upon returning home from work, a resident discovered that jewelery was missing from her home. PO Bartoloma and Det. Dillon responded to investigate. After speaking with the resident, the officers determined that the primary suspect was a person who had been contracted by the homeowner to work in her home while she was at work. The officers located the person at his apartment in Clifton and while speaking with the 37 year-old Uruguayan national, observed the stolen jewelry in the apartment. He was arrested for the theft and is being held in the Bergen County Jail on this and other charges.

Fraud Alert

Over the past few weeks, police have issued many cautionary messages regarding the various frauds that people will attempt. We have been alerted to the Grandparent Fraud, IRS Scam, Utility Company Fraud and a variety of others. The underlying theme of all these attempts to part residents with their money is the immediate need to obtain a money card or your bank account information, most often over the telephone. Very often these scammers will also threaten to have their victims arrested if they do not comply with their demands.

If you receive any of these calls:

- DO NOT provide any personal information to the caller. This includes bank account information, birth dates, social security numbers, even your address.
- DO NOT purchase money cards and provide the caller with the numbers on them.
- DO NOT challenge the caller or become involved in a dispute with him. Just hang up the phone.
- DO call police if you receive a suspicious call, where the caller is insistent or threatens you.
- The new thing is to spoof your police department telephone number so it appears on caller ID. No police department will call and demand that you make any payments over the phone. If in doubt, call your local police to verify with them.

No reputable business or government agency or legitimate utility company will demand immediate payment, particularly via money cards. If you have any reservations about the call, contact police.

In the Grandparent scam, callers will state that a family member is in trouble or being held against their will and needs money. The caller will then demand that you send them money for that relative. To avoid being a victim of this scam:

- Resist the pressure to act quickly.
- Try to contact your grandchild or another family member to determine whether or not the call is legitimate.
- Never wire money based on a request made over the phone or in an e-mail...especially overseas. Wiring money is like giving cash—once you send it, you can't get it back.

9-1-1 Information

Allendale Police Department					
<i>9-1-1 Calls - Actual Tallies</i>					
		2015		2016	
<u>Category</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Pct</u>
9-1-1 Other Town		629	38%	69	36%
Abandoned 9-1-1 Call		435	26%	33	17%
Alarm		7	0%	1	1%
Ambulance Request		159	10%	32	16%
Animal Complaint		26	2%	2	1%
Assists		81	5%	12	6%
Crimes		12	1%	0	0%
Dispute		31	2%	2	1%
Fire		35	2%	8	4%
Hazardous Conditions		22	1%	1	1%
MVC		102	6%	14	7%
Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Incident		46	3%	5	3%
Traffic Complaints		26	2%	11	6%
All Other		42	3%	4	2%
Totals:		1653	100%	194	100%
Calls Resulting in Investigations:		223	13%	32	16%

Looking at the 2015 figures, next to calls originating on other towns, Abandoned and misdialed calls are the most frequent 9-1-1 call we receive (26%). After that are Ambulance Requests (10%) and MV Crashes (6%).

The chart below breaks out the Abandoned and Misdialed calls to show the reasons behind them. The overwhelming majority of these calls (40%) involve callers who don't stay on the phone to explain their error or answer their phone when the 9-1-1 operator calls to assure they are OK (No info given/No contact). In each of these cases that operator will attempt to send an officer to the caller's location assure that they are not in danger.

Some of the notable misdials and erroneous calls we have had are people calling 9-1-1 to see when power will be restored, dialing 9-1-1 instead of 4-1-1 for information, testing de-activated phones to see if they work on the 9-1-1 system (they do) and calling to demand that the cable company restore service so they can continue to

watch their sporting event. We discourage these types of calls. They are a distraction for the 9-1-1 operator, who must not only answer these calls, but also the administrative lines, the radio and handle anyone who walks into the police HQ lobby. We have also had occasions where officers have been checking on errant 9-1-1 callers when another, true, emergency has arisen.

Allendale Police Department				
	<i>9-1-1 Calls - Misdialed/Abandoned</i>			
	2015		2016	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
Outgoing Errors	50	11%	4	12%
Misdial/Error	131	30%	9	27%
Children	14	3%	1	3%
Pocket Dials	28	6%	2	6%
No data (#/Map Plot)	35	8%	6	18%
No info given/No contact	177	41%	11	33%
Totals:	435	100%	33	100%

When you call 9-1-1 by accident we ask that you stay on the line to explain that the call was dialed in error. We may still send an officer to check on you, but the urgency is not there like it would be if all we hear is a dead line or yelling in the background.