

These calls are dispatched based on available police units. The police department also handles code enforcement and animal complaints. These calls are also prioritized as low priority.

We are proud at the La Junta Police Department as to having faster response time than most large police departments.

Reason some people give for not reporting suspected criminal activity.

- It's none of my business. *You may be the next victim.*
- Someone else may be reporting it. *Maybe not.*
- The police are too busy. *Calls of in-progress crimes or suspicious activity are always important.*
- That noise may not be anything. *If so, why did it attract your attention?*
- That unknown person may be visiting the neighbors. *Maybe not. It's best to be certain.*
- That strange car may be lost. *There may be a crime about to occur.*
- The stranger at my door seems friendly, they were just lost. *This is how some burglars determine if anyone was home.*
- I could be wrong, and there is no crime occurring. *Maybe not. But then again, no harm is done by investigating it.*
- The criminals might retaliate if I report them. *Though this might occur, experience indicates this happens in extremely rare cases.*

- I do not care what happens off my property. *Apathy breeds crime. You could be next.*
- It is the police department's job, not mine. *The police depend on residents to be their "eyes and ears."*
- I am the victim and I do not want to report it because it was just a minor theft. *It could be part of a developing pattern and the police need to know about it.*

How to call the police.

1. Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies, or 384-2525 for non-emergencies or to ask questions.
2. Quickly describe why you are calling.
3. Give your name, address, and telephone number.
4. Give detailed suspect or vehicle description and last known location or direction of travel.
5. Stay calm. Remain on the phone to give any information.

Note the following when you meet the officer:

- Date and time
- Officer's name
- Case number, if applicable, will be provided by the officer.

WHY SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?

A GUIDE FOR CITIZENS



For Crime Prevention Information,
contact:

La Junta Police Department
601 Colorado Ave
La Junta, CO 81050
719-384-2525
Emergencies 911

Chief Todd Quick

The battle against crime is one demanding combined efforts of the police and citizens. Because police cannot be omnipresent— all places, all times—the police department is dependant on citizen cooperation in the fight against crime. Many crimes could be prevented if more citizens would be alert for suspicious activity and take appropriate measures to notify police.

When should I call the police?

If you observe suspicious activity, even though you may not be the only witness, take the initiative and call the police. Do not rely on someone else to act—this may never happen. You could be the only caller and crimes often are deterred by police questioning individuals seen lurking in or repeatedly traveling through areas.

Many people fail to act because they are not sure if what they are observing is worth reporting. When in doubt, call the police immediately. Don't lose precious time discussing the event with friends or neighbors first.

How do I report a crime?

If you suspect that a crime is being committed or is about to be committed, please call the La Junta Police Department at 719-384-2525 or 911. You need not give your name. However, if you want a police officer to contact you, give your name, address, and telephone number to the dispatcher, and indicate that you would like an officer to contact you. In order to completely investigate incidents contact by the police with the public is necessary .

To better ensure handling of your incident it is recommended that you have the police officer contact you. When you call the La Junta Police Department, this information is kept confidential.

What is suspicious activity?

- A stranger around your neighbor's house or a strange vehicle parked near your neighbor's home.
- The sound of breaking glass.
- Anyone peering into vehicles or removing license plates, gasoline, or auto parts.
- An improperly parked car, or parked car with someone in it who seems out of place.
- Someone carrying property such as TVs, stereos, or tools that can be used to break into homes.
- Apparent business transactions conducted from vehicle, house, or street corner.
- A constant flow of strangers to and from a particular house on a regular basis, especially during late evening hours.
- Person involved in a fight or any explosion or scream.
- Door-to-door solicitors without a La Junta sales tax license and permit, or any stranger knocking on doors (burglars sometimes knock on doors first to see if anyone is home).
- Recurring appearances of strange vehicle in the neighborhood.
- Persons standing around, possibly acting as lookouts.

Burglar in your home.

If you return home and believe that someone may have broken in while you were away:

- Leave immediately! Do not enter your home!
- Go to a neighbor's house or some other location and dial 911.
- Wait for police; do not return to your home until officers have checked it.

Call prioritization

To ensure a rapid police response when you need it, the police department has a call priority system. High priority calls consist of reports of crimes where lives may be endangered or in progress or those recently committed where there is a change of apprehended a criminal. As the dispatcher is asking questions, the information is being made available to the officers responding to the call. It is important to continue talking to the call taker, answering questions and providing additional information as accurately as possible.

When 911 is dialed and the calling party hangs up, an officer is sent to the address. With the 911 enhance system used in La Junta the address of the telephone number from where the call is being made appears on the call taker's computer terminal. Please ensure that you children do not play with your telephone.

Lower priority calls consist of reports of property crimes that occurred some time ago and the suspects have left the scene.