CrimeReports.com FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

What is CrimeReports.com: CrimeReports.com is an online mapping and analysis service provided by Public Engines, Inc., headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. CrimeReports.com combines the value of police data with the ease-of-use of Google-based mapping and an analytics module so that members of the public can view police data in a high-impact map and summary format. Users of the CrimeReports.com service may also sign up to receive free email alerts based on user defined parameters (i.e. geography, crime types) and then choose the frequency of receiving the notifications.

CrimeReports.com will provide the community with increased functionality to include convenient and anonymous tipping from the CrimeReports.com website through the Crime Solvers of Fairfax County network, automated notifications (with user sign-up), a robust map feature and easy to read event pop-up boxes.

What type of police data is populating CrimeReports.com? The CrimeReports.com service utilizes police data that is stored in the Fairfax County Police Department's electronic report writing system. These police events have been classified by a police officer into a category and saved into our I/LEADS police records management system before being pushed out to CrimeReports.com. Please note that not every event that you will see on the map is a crime. For example, a user might see a public service event, in which a crime did not occur. CrimeReports.com provides an "Advanced Search" feature in which users may filter what events are displayed within a defined time frame.

What does the Crime Reports event "information graphic" look like? The graphic, a pop-up field, will include the following:

- Event and location – This shows how an event was classified by a police officer, and gives the Hundredth block of the event location.
- Identifier – An ID number representing the event.
- Narrative – Describes what type of event occurred.
- Agency – Fairfax County Police Department.
- Send to a Friend – Allows a user to E-mail event from Crime Reports to another person.
- Submit a Tip – Allows instant, anonymous tipping to the Fairfax County Crime Solvers.

Assault
1800 Block GILSON ST

Identifier:
886014-1
Occurred On:
11 Jun 2016 @ 12:00:00 pm
Narrative
ASSAULT - SIMPLE; NOT AGGRAVATED
Agency:
Fairfax County Police Department
Send to friend   Submit a tip

The data provided on the site reflects actual event types as classified by a police officer into the department's records management system. Address locations of events will be display to the hundredth-block (ex: 1500 Block of Franconia Rd); this is a standard in police online reporting systems and is done for the privacy and protection of victims of crimes.

How often is information updated within Crime Reports? To provide our community with timely and relevant information, the Fairfax County Police Department has elected to push information twice a day; at predetermined times. It has been determined that two separate information updates will provide the most coverage of daily occurring events in Fairfax County. This is a computer automated process which reduces the personnel resources necessary to maintain the system.

Why is the partnership between the Fairfax County Police Department and Crime Reports beneficial to the community? For over ten years the Fairfax County Police Department has provided its community with searchable, online police activity information in a similar geographical format through the county's "My Neighborhood" application. In an effort to provide the most user-friendly experience, the introduction of the CrimeReports.com online platform will allow many of the similar functions found on the "Police Events" viewer on My Neighborhood, however will introduce Google-based mapping and the ability for users to create a Crime Reports account and sign up for updates based on areas that they see on the map. The partnership will also allow easy, anonymous crime tipping to Fairfax County Crime Solvers.

What if I live in the Town of Herndon, Fairfax City, Alexandria City, Arlington County, City of Falls Church, or the District of Columbia (D.C.)? Can I still view crime data on the website? Although you are free to explore these different areas, or other participating jurisdictions nationwide on CrimeReports.com, the Fairfax County Police Department does not and cannot provide date for these outside jurisdictions.

I was looking at police activity near my neighborhood…what if I recognize a crime and realize that I have information about it, or the suspect involved? A special feature of the CrimeReports.com partnership is that through each event displayed on the website for the Fairfax County service area, a link to the Fairfax County Crime Solvers network will be available on the event itself. You may anonymously submit your tip by clicking on the link on the event pop-up box that states "Submit a tip," which will open a web-based, encrypted email page in which to submit your crime tip. As usual, the public may also contact the tip line anonymously through texting TIP187, plus the message to CRIMES (274637), or by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS.

For more information on the Fairfax County Crime Solvers program, please visit: http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/. Please note, services are not dispatched through the Crime Solvers network. Contact emergency services by dialing 911 if you require assistance with an emergency, or a crime in progress. Or, the Fairfax County Police Department non-emergency number at: (703) 691-2131 or TTY (703) 877-3715.

Is this replacing the My Neighborhood application on the Fairfax County website? My Neighborhood, hosted on www.fairfaxcounty.gov and run by the Fairfax County Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Department will remain available on http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/myneighborhood/ and will continue to let users discover information about county neighborhoods, including real estate assessments and surrounding land development. It includes street, imagery, and topographic base maps. You may still access

mapped crime data from the My Neighborhood application, however, now you will be redirected to the www.crimereports.com

Are there other ways to access police related events on CrimeReports.com? Yes! CrimeReports.com is also viewable on your web-accessible Android or Apple device such as a tablet or mobile phone.

Where does the information on registered sex offenders come from? Sex offender data is managed through Federal information and the Virginia State Police. For more information on sex offender locations please visit: Virginia State Police (VSP), Sex Offender Registry

Can I request a copy of a full report for a specific event? For information on requesting a report please contact Central Records Services of the Fairfax County Police Department. Central Records is located at 10600 Page Avenue, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may call the office during regular business hours at 703-246-2272. Visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/records-check.htm for more information on obtaining a copy of your report.

I have a question about CrimeReports.com or the data being displayed. Have your question ready and please contact the Fairfax County Police Department, Public Affairs Bureau (PAB) at 703-246-2253, or by E-Mail at: fcpd-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov

Disclaimer: Do not rely on this service, any CrimeReports.com services, or any crime solver tipping solution for communication to Fairfax County Police Department or to any Fairfax County emergency services. In the event of an emergency, please dial 911 or your local non-emergency number. Additionally, users should not rely upon the information provided by this public engine service as any type of monitoring, alarm or security service.

We do our best to ensure that the figures represented are complete and accurate. However, because of the inherent data and records management processes involved in compiling and processing police data, neither Fairfax County nor the Fairfax County Police Department shall assume liability for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or correct sequencing in the information provided, regardless of how caused; or any decision made, action taken, or action not taken by the users in reliance upon any information or maps represented through CrimeReports.com. Any unlawful use of information provided is prohibited and intentional violations shall be punishable under applicable law.