



The Situation Report

“Honest Reporting”

EMERGENCIES V.S. NON-EMERGENCIES: WHEN IT’S OKAY TO CALL “911”

Written by: Blair Taylor

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In today’s day, it is commonplace for individuals to seek the assistance of the proper authorities when dealing with a situation that could be perceived as hostile or life threatening. In most cases, people believe that the number to call, regardless of the direness of the situation, is 9-1-1. A number that a lot of people are told to call in the event of an emergency.

9-1-1, although the correct number to call when dealing with a life threatening or serious crime, is not the number to call for every situation. A common example of a situation in which it is appropriate to call 9-1-1 is if you are a witness to someone vandalizing private or public property. Another example includes witnessing, or being the victim of a burglary that is in progress. Although these are appropriate instances to call the authorities, in certain cases it is best to call a Non-Emergency number when dealing with certain crimes. Non-Emergency service numbers can be used to contact proper authorities in the instance when there is no immediate danger to someone else’s life or their property. Examples of when it is best to call a Non-Emergency service number include: loud or disruptive animals or parties, or crimes that have already taken place and no known suspect is at the scene the crime.

To find out your city's non-emergency phone number, you can go to [policeone.com](https://www.policeone.com)* to find the number for your city.

*Can insert hyperlink to direct link using this URL:

<https://www.policeone.com/resources/247166006-Non-Emergency-Police-Phone-Numbers/>