



### How to Avoid Falling Victim to a Scam

Every year millions of Americans fall victim to scams, fraud and other Internet crimes. In 2019 the Springfield Police Department took nearly 1,000 reports of Internet crimes and U.S.-wide, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received 3.2 million reports.

The most successful and commonly used scams are imposter scams, which is when the caller pretends to be from the government, a well-known business or a friend or family member of the targeted person in order to get money or sensitive identify information. According to the FTC, victims of these types of crimes most frequently reported paying scammers with a gift card. And at SPD we have taken reports about scammers impersonating Springfield Police Officers and trying to get money for fundraisers or through threats of criminal charges.

"We don't want to see the citizens of Springfield fall prey to scams and we hope that with a few simple tips, we can safeguard them from losing money or becoming a victim of identity theft," said Police Chief Paul Williams.

**To avoid falling victim to these types of crimes, take a moment to review the following tips:**

- Representatives from SPD will never call you and request funds over the phone.
- Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.
- Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real.
- Wiring money, reloadable cards and gift cards are risk forms of currency. These methods make it nearly impossible get money back, so think twice if someone if requesting payment in those forms

If you have fallen victim to a scam or Internet crime, you lost money and you live in Springfield, the first thing you should do if file a police report with SPD. You can do so online by visiting [SpringfieldMO.gov/SPD](http://SpringfieldMO.gov/SPD), by phone (417) 864-1810 or in person by visiting 321 E. Chestnut Expy or 2620 W. Battlefield Rd.

After a report is filed with SPD, you can take further action by submitting a complaint to the Missouri Attorney General's Office and/or the Federal Trade Commission. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3.gov) is also a great resource for submitting information about international scams.

Vigilant citizens who have spotted a scam can also submit complaints, even if they have not fallen victim.

**For more tips and information, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website, [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov).**

Sources: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/01/top-frauds-2019>



### Move Over. It's the law.

**Motor vehicle-related incidents are a leading cause of line-of-duty deaths for law enforcement officers in the United States. In the last decade 122 officers nation-wide have died after being struck by a vehicle. When on roadways remember:**

- If safe and possible, drivers are required by Missouri law to move out of the lane closest to a stationary emergency vehicle displaying flashing red or red-and-blue lights.
- Police, Fire, EMS and tow trucks are covered by the Move Over law.
- If it's not possible to switch lanes, slow to a safe speed and proceed with caution.
- All states have enacted "Move Over" laws
- Failure to follow the law may result in a fine or criminal charge.

Sources: <https://www.transportation.gov/connections/move-over-its-law>

### See Something. Say Something.

There's no information that's insignificant. Don't hesitate. Call 911.

**Report criminal activity anonymously to Crime Stoppers.**

**(417) 869-TIPS**

**Headquarters:**  
321 E. Chestnut Expressway  
Springfield, MO 65802

**South District Station:**  
2620 W. Battlefield Rd.  
Springfield, MO 65807

Connect with us: [sgfpolice](https://www.facebook.com/sgfpolice)



Learn more about how you can be involved in crime prevention efforts:  
**(417) 874-2113 or [springfieldmo.gov/spd](http://springfieldmo.gov/spd)**

# Springfield Crime Statistics

## Fourth Quarter 2019 (Oct. - Dec.)

**↑ 25%**  
Overall increase  
in crime in 4th Qtr.  
(Compared to 4th Qtr. 2018)

### CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

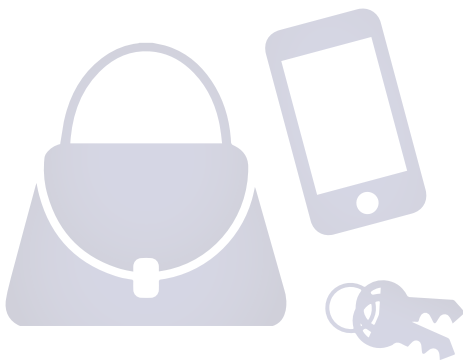
Oct. - Dec.	2018	2019
Homicide	7	3
Rape	82	99
Robbery	86	100
Aggravated Assault	417	447
<b>Total Against Persons</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>649</b>

THERE WAS A **10% TOTAL INCREASE** IN CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS FROM THIS PERIOD IN 2018.

### CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Oct. - Dec.	2018	2019
Burglary	505	540
Larceny/Theft	2,130	2,779
Stolen Vehicle	344	504
<b>Total Against Property</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>3,823</b>

THERE WAS AN **28% TOTAL INCREASE** IN CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY FROM THIS PERIOD IN 2018.



There was a significant increase in theft reports.

To combat this, Citizens should secure their vehicles and homes, by locking doors, removing their keys, and keeping property out of sight.

**HOMICIDES**  
dropped  
by **57%**  
between the 4th  
quarter, 2018 and  
4th quarter, 2019.

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