

ALPINE POLICE REPORT

By Chief Kip Botkin

We all know what wonderful things the internet can do for us. The list of the way the internet can help us is almost endless. Most of us have become very dependent on the internet as a source of information and would be “hard pressed” if this source of information were to be limited, restricted or become non-existent. I frequently use Google as a search engine and have been quite pleased with the results. However, I recently was made aware of a “new” feature on Google which causes me concern and I thought it may be helpful to pass along to our citizens.

Google’s new feature enables you to type a telephone number into the search bar, hit enter, and obtain the person’s name and address. If the user then hits “Map Quest” you will get a map to the person’s house. This program is a reverse telephone book. If a child gives out his/her phone number, someone could enter the phone number and find out where the child lives and very possibly obtain directions right to the child’s home. To see if your number is available or mapped, go to www.google.com and enter your phone number in the search bar, hit enter and see what information appears.

It is possible to have your number removed or blocked by clicking on your telephone number and then clicking the Removal Form and fill out the requested information. I understand removal takes 48 hours.

The availability of your home address and other information may not apply to you if you have an unlisted number or use a cell phone as your primary contact. To ascertain what information is available through this web site, we suggest that you enter your phone number to see what information is available. You may want to remove or block the information.

We desire all our citizens, and those who visit our community, to be as safe as possible.