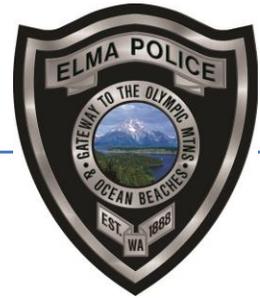


# Elma Police Department

124 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, PO Box 3011, Elma WA 98541  
Emergency Dial 911 · Office (360) 482-3131 · Fax (360) 482-3717



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



### Table of Contents

Message from the Chief	2
Department Overview	3
Crime Trends	4
Crimes Against Persons	5
Property Crimes	6
Drug and Alcohol Related Crime	7
Traffic Safety	8
Special Events	9

## *Message from the Chief*

The following pages are intended to provide the public with a look back at the year that was in Elma and within the Elma Police Department. While the Grays Harbor headlines in 2017 seemed to be punctuated with tragic events, incidents like these are not the norm. The 2017 Annual Report instead highlights the department activities over the last twelve months which represents the hard work, day in and day out, of the officers and employees of the EPD and the resulting successes.

After a record number of reported crimes during 2017, the past year marked a definitive decrease in crime and increased levels of citizen engagement and satisfaction.

All of this was accomplished while the EPD dealt with a staffing shortage caused by a temporary decrease in staffing. As we worked to cover shifts, the officers responded with increasing enthusiasm and productivity throughout the year.

Take a few minutes and read through our annual report, I assure you will find out things you didn't know, or be reminded of things you already knew, but most importantly I think your appreciation and respect for the work done by your officers and employees of the Elma Police Department will grow, leaving you as proud of them as I am.

Yours in Community Service,

Susan J. Shultz  
Police Chief



## ***Department Overview***

### **Mission**

With integrity, trust, respect and professionalism, while partnering with the community, we will protect and serve the citizens and visitors of the City of Elma.

### **Vision**

Through community partnerships and problem solving, it is our vision to take a unified stance against crime, violence, disorder and disregard for the law. We are committed to crime prevention and intervention activities. In cooperation with citizens, civic and business leaders, public and private agencies, churches, medical providers and schools, we will help build a strong, self-sufficient community – a community in which crime and disorder will not thrive.

### **Core Values**

#### **Integrity-**

We are dedicated in maintaining the highest moral standards by embracing the principals of honesty, trust and courage.

#### **Trust-**

We commit ourselves to building trust and being trustworthy. We are loyal to the City of Elma and to each other.

#### **Respect-**

We recognize the value of our unique community and treat the people with kindness, tolerance and dignity. We protect the rights, liberties and freedoms as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America.

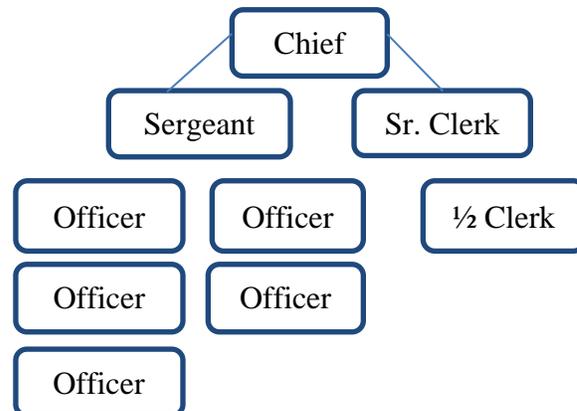
#### **Professionalism-**

We take pride in our actions, duties, development and appearance.

#### **Community Partnership-**

We are part of the community. Community partnership involves collaborating with residents and organizations for the betterment of Elma. We value communication with those that we serve and encourage their participation in our community.

Motto- *“Professionally Serve and Partnership with Integrity, Trust and Respect”*



# Crime Trends

## 2017 Statistics

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Calls for service-</b>	<b>4926</b>	<b>4625</b>	<b>4824</b>	<b>4619</b>	<b>4176</b>	<b>4268</b>
Agency assist-	677	755	648	506	453	476
Crime against Persons	776	797	788	936	729	763
Property Crime	566	559	529	599	730	684
Drug/Alcohol related	1219	1264	1256	1167	1099	1215
Warrant Arrests	69	97	156	132	126	
<b>Arrests-</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>264</b>				
Felony-	70	71				
Misdemeanor-	173	193				
<b>Traffic Stops-</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>1003</b>
Criminal Traffic-	106	121	137	140	98	123
Infractions-	321	290	317	303	235	275
Verbal Warning-	581	855	993	786	679	605
<b>Community Policing-</b>						
Positive Community Contacts	13,346	6575	5131			
Office Assistance	2127	1717	1383			
Business Checks	5,581	4879	6338			
Business/ School walk through	3606	1124				
Special Events	29	27	35			
Concealed Weapons Permits Issued	76	89	53			
<b>Use of Force-</b>						
Total	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>			
Male	19	17	23			
Female	3	2	1			
Caucasian	22	19	21			
Hispanic	0	0	3			
<b>Vehicle Pursuits-</b>						
Total		3	3			
<b>Average Response Time, Dispatch to Arrival</b>					3.38 minutes	



## Crimes Against Person

The term “crimes against the person” refers to a broad array of criminal offenses which usually involve bodily harm, the threat of bodily harm, or other actions committed against the will of an individual. Those involving bodily harm (or the threat thereof) include assault, and sexual violence. Additionally, offenses such as harassment, kidnapping, and stalking also are considered crimes against the person.

### Assault

A harmful or intended unwanted physical contact against a person by another. The degree of assault is determined by the level of harm or potential harm to the victim.

Simple Assaults	31
Domestic Violence	23
Assault with a weapon	4
Assault with a firearm	0
Citizen Dispute	122
Threats	9
Disorderly Conduct	91
Death Investigations	7

### Sexual Assault

Crimes that include involve the sexual abuse of another, or sexual communication to minor. The unlawful possession or production of child pornography

Sexual Assault	7
Possession of Pornography	1
Child Abuse/Neglect	2

### Stalking

Conduct in which the offender harasses or invades the personal space of another individual, often putting the victim in fear for his or her safety.

Stalking	0
----------	---

### Harassment

The basics of criminal harassment, a crime distinct from civil harassment which can include stalking, violating restraining orders, harassing an individual via telephone or the Internet; with links to state laws.

Harassment	13
Phone Harassment	2
Civil Disputes	111

### Order Violations

Encompasses offenders that violate court orders to not make direct or indirect contact with another.

Violations of Court Order	16
Violations of Restraining	2
Code Enforcement Violation	3
Court Orders Issued	31

### Hate Crimes

Offenses for which the motive is based on the victim’s race, ethnicity, religion or some other characteristic protected by civil rights laws.

Missing Persons	9
-----------------	---

### Kidnapping/ Unlawful Imprisonment

The unwanted abduction and or restraining of an individual against their will.

## Property Crimes

Property crime is a category of crime that includes, among other crimes, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, shoplifting, and vandalism. Property crime involves the taking of property, and does not involve force or threat of force against a person. Crimes against property are divided into two groups: destroyed property and stolen property. When property is destroyed, it could be called arson or vandalism. Property crimes are high-volume crimes, with cash, electronics (e.g. computers), power tools, cameras, and jewelry often targeted.

### Burglary

With the intent to commit a crime against a person or property, person/s enters or remains unlawfully in a building or dwelling. The degree of burglary is determined by several factors.

Residential Burglary	9
Burglary	13
Extra Patrol Requests	9
Vacation Check Request	14
Unsecured Premises	13
Trespassing	41

### Theft

To unlawfully obtain the property or services of another person or business. The degree of theft is determined by the value of items or services taken.

Robbery	5
Property Theft	41
Bicycle Theft	7
Theft of Gas	3
Shoplifting	16

### Vehicle Theft

The taking of a motor vehicle without permission by the owner.

Theft of a Vehicle	11
Theft of a Motorcycle	1
Theft from a Vehicle	6

### Vehicle Prowl

To enter another's vehicle without permission with the intent to commit another crime.

Vehicle Prowl	20
---------------	----

### Arson/Reckless Burning

Arson involves the act of knowingly and maliciously causing a fire or explosion. Reckless burning is the burning or explosion conducted in a reckless manner. The degree of both is determined by threat to human life and what is damaged by the fire.

Fire Response	6
Bomb Threat	0
Reckless Endangerment	12
Fireworks Complaint	9

### Malicious Mischief/Graffiti

The act of knowingly and maliciously damaging another person's property. The degree of charges is determined by the value amount of damage committed.

Vandalism Damage	18
Criminal Mischief	1
Property Damage	1

Suspicious Person	570
-------------------	-----

## Drug & Alcohol Related Crime

The relationship between drugs and alcohol and crime is complex. Most directly, it is a crime to buy, use, possess, manufacture, or distribute illegal drugs (such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine). The misuse of legal substances may also be connected to crime. For example, prescription drug abuse may be associated with a variety of crimes such as prescription forgery, illegal internet pharmacies, and drug theft. Similarly, alcohol, while legal for adults, may be used in a manner that constitutes a crime or status offense (i.e., while operating a vehicle or possession by a minor). Drugs and alcohol also impact crime indirectly via the effects they have on users' behavior and by their association with violence and other illegal activity in connection with their manufacture, distribution, acquisition or consumption.

### Drug Related Crime

Calls for service by officers that are the direct result or caused by drug or alcohol involvement.

Total calls connected 1219

### Sale or Manufacturing of Drugs

The sale, manufacturing and delivery of drugs such as methamphetamine, heroin and controlled prescription drugs.

Sale of Controlled Substance 4  
Sale of Controlled Synthetic 3

### Possession of a Controlled Substance

Suspects arrested on the possession of methamphetamine, heroin or controlled prescription for their own use.

Poss of Controlled Substance 15  
Poss of Meth/Heroin 14

### Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

The possession of devises or tools utilized for the use of illegal drugs.

Poss of Paraphernalia 7

### Possession of Marijuana

The possession of 1 oz of marijuana for personal use is legal in the State of Washington for subjects over the age of 21. There are additional aspects and regulations to this law. People can be charged with possession of Marijuana when found in violation of State law.

Poss of Marijuana 6

### Consuming Marijuana in Public

It is illegal for anyone to consume Marijuana in Public.

Marijuana in Public 1

### Intoxicated Person in Public

Not illegal, officers check the welfare of intoxicated subjects.

Alcohol Offenses 2  
Intoxicated Person 5  
Disorderly Conduct 91

## Traffic Related Crime

Criminal traffic offenses are punishable by fines as well as jail time. Sometimes jail is mandatory depending on the severity of the offense. The possibility of jail time being imposed sets criminal traffic offenses apart from regular traffic infractions. In addition, criminal traffic convictions can carry a period of probation. These offenses can be alcohol and non-alcohol related.

### Traffic Stops

Officers must have probable cause to stop and detain a vehicle. It is the Officer's discretion to issue an infraction. Special attention is given to School and Construction Zones.



Traffic Stop Total	1008
Infractions	321
School Zone Infractions	43
Driving Complaints	20

### Criminal Traffic Citations

Citations that require the cited subject to be referred to the Elma Courts for judgement on fines and/or jail time.



Criminal Traffic Citations	106
----------------------------	-----

### DUI

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Elma actively participates in Grays Harbor DUI Emphasis Patrols



DUI Alcohol or Drugs	25
GH DUI Emphasis	84

### Traffic Collisions

Officers take reports on collisions meeting \$1000 damage or more, occurring on public property.



Traffic Accident Reportable	11
Traffic Accident Non-Report	9
Traffic Accident Property Damage	1
Traffic Accident Person Injury	1
Traffic Accident Hit and Run	19

### Traffic Hazard

Officers Respond to various calls of debris or hazards in the roadway.



Response to Traffic Hazards	50
-----------------------------	----

## *Noted Events & Investigations*

The Elma Police Department began 2017 with several felony investigations. The department was kept busy with 2 reported sexual assaults of minors and the subsequent investigations. Later in January, Elma High School reported locating a gun on campus. The gun was in a back pack left in the boy's locker room. Officers secured the gun and identified the young man that brought the gun school. The student was arrested and transported to the Grays Harbor Juvenile Detention Center.

Sadly, a 62 year-old female was severely beaten by her 65 year- old boyfriend. The Elma man left the area to avoid arrest. The suspect in the case had prior convictions of murder. Several months later, US Marshalls located the male in Idaho; he was transported to the Grays Harbor Corrections on the warrant for his arrest.

In January an Elma business reported several forgeries by a 36 year-old Elma female writing checks on a 99 year-old female's stolen checkbook. The female was identified through surveillance video and was arrested without incident.

January Officer Wheeler and Chief Shultz visited the Head Start Preschool and spent quality time with 3 and 4year-olds. They had some great questions and were excited to get the opportunity to see the inside of a police car.

In February of 2017 an Elma Man wanted on an assault domestic violence, ran from officers and attempted to hide. Officer Goffena located the man and arrested him on the warrant. During the search of the male, a small quantity of methamphetamine was located and he was charged with the felony drug crime as well.

February brought the connection of our Generator. Our department is prepared to serve as the City EOC in case of an emergency.

Students from the Elma High School Metal Class presented a stand they created for our weapon unloading station.



Officers started attending recognition events at the Elma Middle School. Students are awarded for their good behavior, grades and attendance. These events are held quarterly and EPD presents the awards to recognized students.

March began busy as officers assisted the Grays Harbor Sheriff's Department with a stabbing investigation. We arrived on scene. Located the suspect and took her into custody until County could arrive on scene. The male victim was transported to the Summit Pacific Hospital for non-life threatening wounds.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a 1st degree robbery, as a male suspect had indicated to a victim that he had a gun in his pocket and stole his vehicle. The suspect did not get far as he

crashed the car just outside the county line on Hwy 8. Officers developed a witness and were able to positively identify a suspect through DNA.

Later in the month of March, officers responded to a structure fire involving a fully engulfed garage. Officers entered the home and removed several adults from the home. One of the officers had to enter the home later as one of the adults remembered her toddler was in the home.



The Elma Police Team participates in the National Drug Take-Back events. One is held in April and the other in October. Both of the events provided local citizens and opportunity to properly dispose of expired or unused medication. Students from the local High School partner with us on this program and are given an opportunity to use their time towards Community Service hours.

Officers continued to focus on the drug sales and use within the City of Elma. With over 1200 incidents related to the illegal use of drugs or alcohol, we recognize the direct link to theft increased criminal behavior in our community. In conjunction with the Sheriff's department, officers and deputies were diligent in making contact with those engaged in suspicious behavior.

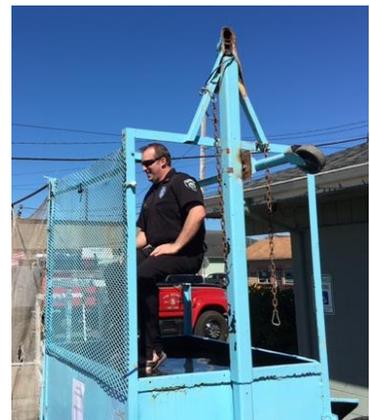
As the month of May is National Law Enforcement Memorial Month, we lit our blue lights in honor of those brothers and sisters in blue gone before. Several community members joined in and lit their porches letting our officers know they are appreciated.



The month of June was definitely filled with ups and downs. The week of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Officer Miller made contact with some suspicious people on the railroad tracks. One of the subjects provided a false name and then ran when Officer Miller went to restrain him. The subject collapsed under a trailer suffering what appeared to be a drug overdose. Aid arrived on scene as the subject stopped breathing several times. Aid provided the subject Narcan and transported to Summit Pacific where he was given several more doses of Narcan until he was stable. June 14<sup>th</sup> we were not as lucky. Officers responded to the area of 9<sup>th</sup> and Martin Ave for a subject not breathing and began CPR. Aid arrived a short time later, sadly the 28 year old male was declared deceased from an apparent overdose, cause of death was determined later as an overdose of Methamphetamine, Heroin and Methadone.



This year, the Elma Police Team partnered with the Elma Fire Department and held the third annual "Safety Fair". The fair was held during Elma's City Wide Garage Sale and one of the hottest days of the year. Officers and their families participated in different ways from grilling our famous "Pigs in a Blanket" to getting submerged in cold water. Mayor Sorenson joined in on the fun by being dunked several times at the hands of excited children. This year the Elma Police Officers Association held a raffle for new bikes. 10 lucky children received brand new bikes donated by Walmart. The Safety Fair was also our opportunity to welcome our newest Team member, Officer Chad Sample, who was eager to participate in the dunk machine and other festivities.



Again in June, the police department partnered with the Timberland Library. We held a Bicycle Rodeo for kids of all ages. This year's event was a huge hit, neighbor



children from all over Elma turned out to learn how to ride their bike safely and respectfully. Chief Shultz enjoyed her time with the young people and made lots of new friends!



On July 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:43 pm a male entered the Anchor Bank pointing a gun at several tellers demanding money. The suspect took an undisclosed amount of money and fled on foot. Elma Officers were on scene within a minute of the call. Officers from Grays Harbor Sheriff's Office, Montesano Police, McCleary Police, Hoquiam Police and Washington State Patrol responded to assist. The scene was secured and processed. During the search of the area, officers located clothing and shoes worn by the suspect during the robbery. Several hours after the robbery, officers identified and located a person of interest. The individual was arrested on a Department of Corrections warrant and is currently in custody. Items located were sent to the Crime Lab for processing, later in the year, our department received notification from the State Lab that our suspect was the confirmed subject. On an interesting note, this male had recently been released from prison for robbing the same bank. The Friday following the robbery, the staff of Anchor Bank celebrated "Blue Friday" by wearing their back the blue T-shirts.



August brought our third, but reduced, Levy request to the community of Elma to support their police department. It is clear; the citizens see what our department is doing for the city, as the Police Levy over whelming passed by 82% for the 2018 year.

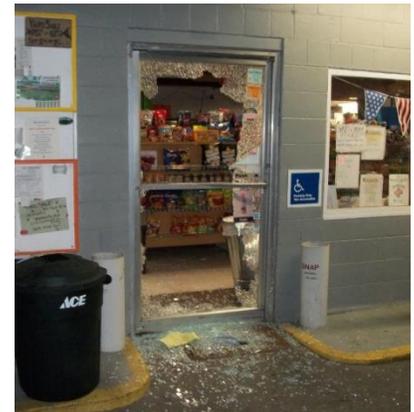


The month of August was officially labeled “crazy”. The beginning of the month was spent chasing leads on the Anchor Bank Robbery case. With the help of K-9 Max, stolen money was returned to the bank and the robber positively identified.

The Flipping 50s restaurant was broken into by a disgruntled ex-employee. The suspect entered the restaurant removing two safes and fleeing in a vehicle. Officers were quick to identify the suspect and vehicle which was ultimately located in Shelton, WA.

August 26<sup>th</sup>, Our Community Credit Union reported finding a suspicious item in their night deposit. It was a piece of metal with a very sticky substance on it. Officer’s reviewed the video footage and identified a suspect trying to “fish” deposits out of the night deposit container. Further investigation identified that the same suspect was conducting the same type of crime all over Grays Harbor. The US Postal Inspector took the cases involving theft of mail.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Slates Corner Grocery was victim to a burglary. Suspects entered the store by breaking the front glass door. Once inside, the suspects focused on tobacco products and candy. Officers continue to work this investigation and are confident will be identifying the responsible parties soon. On August 30<sup>th</sup> at about 0250 hours, two suspects broke the front glass door of the Mini Mall Service Station. They entered the store and stole tobacco products and candy. The suspects have been linked to those responsible for the Slates Grocery Burglary.



August again served to be one of the busiest community event months for the Police Department. Officers and staff participated and helped out during the “Heat on the Street” event. The Chief helped the Senior Center serve a yummy Bisquit and Gravy Breakfast to the visitors and participants of the car show. The Police Departement sponsored an award this year, “Most likely to be pulled over by the Elma Police Department”

The Grays Harbor Fair brought thousands of visitors to Elma. The Chief spent a day in the sun, driving the “kiddy train”. What a great way to meet the community and make connections with our younger crowd.

The Elma Police Department participated in the First Annual Back to School Fair. The event was a success, as it served over 400 children and their families. More than 20 local businesses and organizations partnered up to make this an amazing time for everyone. We dedicated Officer Wheeler to spend several hours connecting with students and their parents.

Officers served a search warrant in September on a vehicle which had been involved in an elude and warrant arrest. The search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of an assault rifle and significant amount of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Elma Officers were dispatched to Summit Pacific Hospital for an unknown problem. Upon arrival, our officers located a Grays Harbor Sheriff's Deputy and Correctional Officer struggling with an out of control subject. The subject had been transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation and became uncooperative. The officers were successful in detaining the subject, but not before the Deputy, Correctional Officer and hospital staff were injured in the process.

In October, Elma Officers assisted the Grays Harbor Drug Task Force and US Marshalls with a search warrant of a residence in the downtown area. The search recovered a large amount of Heroin and Methamphetamine. The Marshalls seized approximately \$150,000. The Elma resident, well known to law enforcement as involved with drug manufacturing and dealing was arrested and is facing a multitude of charges.

The month of October was dedicated to Breast Cancer Awareness. The officers of Elma PD wore pink and Officer Wheeler teamed up with the young men at Elma High School. Elma Football players wore pink shoelaces in their cleats for the month. They dedicated the 50/50 drawing to the Cancer Society and the winner of the event actually turned around and donated their winnings back. The Elma Middle School got involved and three lucky students got the chance to spray Principal Perry, Assistant Principal Ohashi and Chief Shultz's hair bright pink.



The Homecoming parade went off without a hitch. Several young men wore pink duct tape and encouraged spectators to “stick it to cancer”. They ran up and down Main Street encouraging people to donate to the Cancer Society by placing bills on their taped bodies. It was great to see such a great turn out and all of the community support for the students and athletes of Elma High School.



Halloween and the Downtown Trick or Treat was another fantastic event. The skies were clear and the sun shined on thousands of visitors. The Police Department passed out bracelets, stickers, tattoos and lots of candy.

In November, the Slate's Corner Grocery was burglarized for a second time. This time, suspects were identified quickly and arrested. One of the suspects in the case was arrested out of a stolen vehicle out of Yelm.

Two suspects were apprehended in November and arrested for vehicle theft after they purchased a vehicle with a forged cashier's check.

Officers also located a stolen vehicle out of the King County area. The driver of the vehicle was arrested for vehicle theft and the passenger was arrested for violation of a controlled substance act.



Elma Police vehicles took on a new modern look with the addition of three much needed, new vehicles. We took the opportunity to update our look with an award winning design and new looking badge.

December was a month to be remembered. Elma Officers assisted WSP with a felony elude. The involved trooper crashed on Stamper Rd at Oakhurst and the suspect crashed on Oakhurst and the washed out culvert. The suspect fled on foot, but with the help of a watchful citizen, Elma Police along with K-9 Max located the hiding suspect who was taken into custody without further incidents.

Sgt. Cristelli and Officer Wheeler attended the Grays Harbor Shop with a Cop event. They enjoyed a breakfast, a parade of lights and sirens and an opportunity to shop with children from the Elma area. This year, Elma sent 5 children to the event.



Our biggest event so far,....the first ever, “Pancakes, Pigs and Santa”. The Elma Police Officers Association, along with numerous community sponsors, offered the community a free pancake breakfast with all the sides and a visit with Santa for a special gift. Proudly, we served over 800 people. The reaction was wonderful and we are already planning next year’s event.



WE ❤️ ELMA

Thank you to our community for your on-going support of the Elma Police Team!