

HB 2319 ~ 911 is the right number to call for emergencies

In Oregon, our coordinated system of emergency services puts an individual who is experiencing an emergency immediately into contact with a 911 dispatcher who is a trained professional to help with their needs. The dispatcher has the background, education and experience to assess the issue, determine the immediate needs and dispatch help.

In order to allow for this system of emergency response to 'do its job', it is critical that 911 is the number associated with emergency calls for help. Entities that advertise another private number and do not make it clear that 911 should be used for emergencies, not only are endangering the emergency response system, but they are also endangering the individual who needs urgent help by delaying response time, potentially doing a secondary handoff to the 911 system which adds critical delays to response and can mean the difference in life and death.

HB 2319 requires any safety entity that is advertising information on emergency response to display 911 as the emergency number to receive help if it is intended for public use. While a simple concept, it is important that there is no confusion in an emergency. 911 is the best number to call for emergency medical, fire or police response. The 911 system of trained, professional dispatchers know how to quickly ascertain the needs of an emergency situation and send help.

HB 2319 strengthens Oregon's public safety response system by making it clear to the public how to receive emergency help. Support HB 2319 and support Oregon's emergency response system.