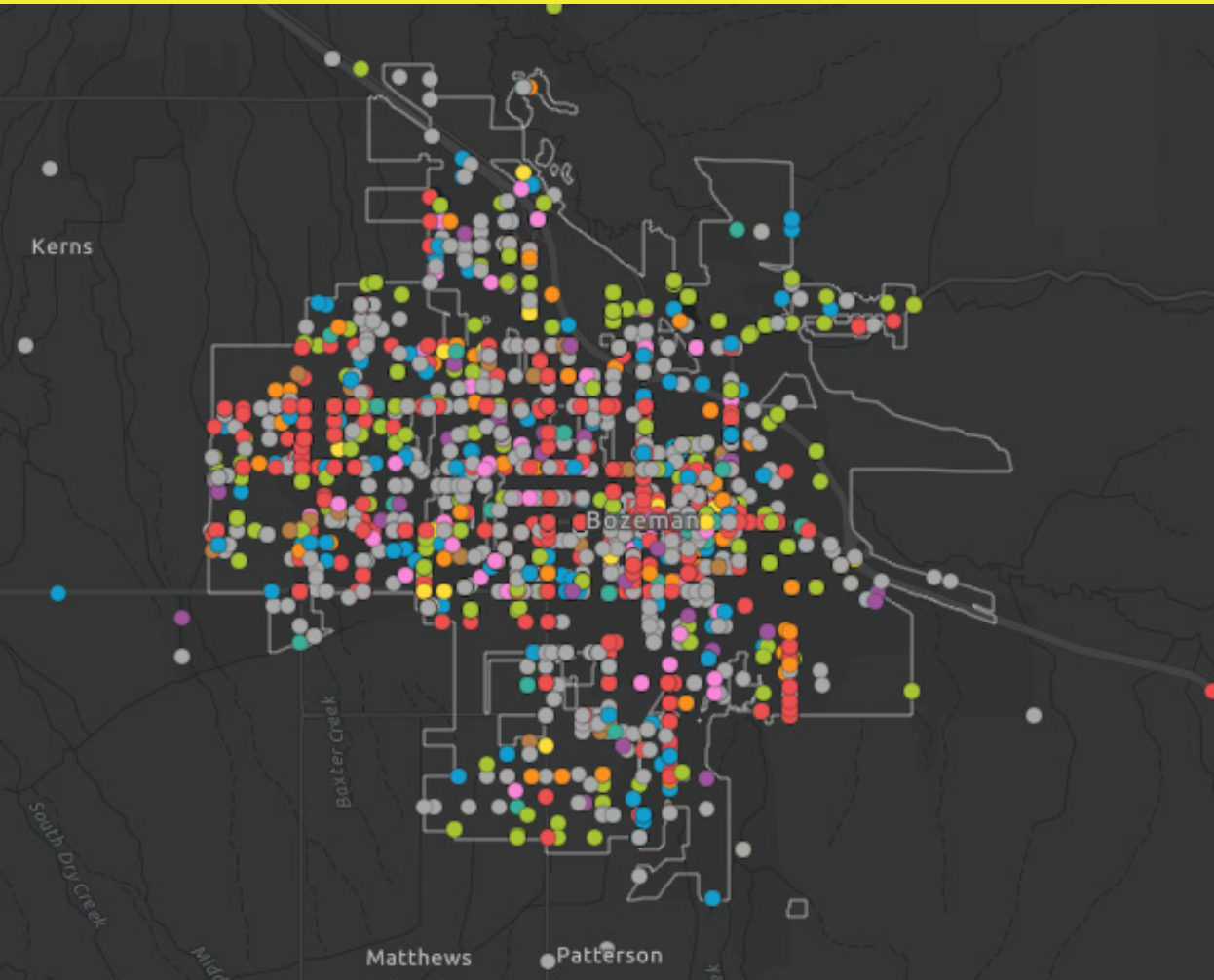




Monthly Report

Recap for March 2026

CFS Report



5,524

total calls for service,
including 911 calls, BPD non-
emergency line calls, and
officer-generated calls

Case Report

473 new cases opened

Of the 5,524 calls, 8.5% resulted in a case.

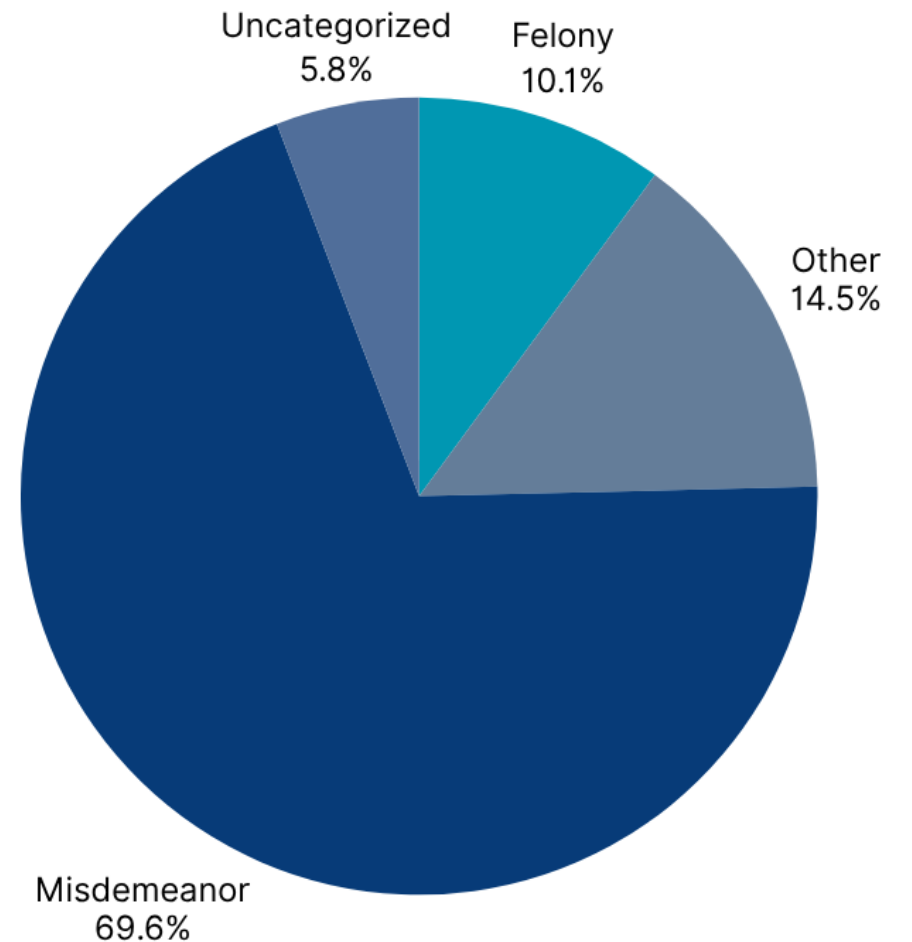
Offense Severity Level*

- Misdemeanors: 407
- Other: 85**
- Felonies: 59
- Uncategorized: 34***

* Each case can include one or more offenses.

** Other includes: warrant arrests, lost/found property, solicitation, protective custody, search and rescue, agency assist, animal infractions, unattended death, and domestic disturbances

*** Uncategorized often indicates the severity of a crime has not been determined.



Notable Trends



Suicide Threats

Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the country, consistently ranking in the top five states. Our department works to respond to suicide threats with compassion and care and connect community members with important resources.

Our work begins when a notification comes in, usually a 911 call to Gallatin County Dispatch. If the call meets certain criteria (the person is alone and does not have a weapon or plan), the call goes to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and could be referred to the Gallatin Mobile Crisis team, a group of behavioral health professionals who provide on-scene care to anyone experiencing a behavioral health crisis. If the person is an immediate danger to themselves or others, BPD responds to the call with the goal of bringing calm to the situation. Once the situation is safe, GMC takes over to provide mental health care.

Remember, it's okay not to be okay. If you need help, text or call 988 for 24/7 counselor support. You can also call 211 to talk with a trained resource specialist who will connect you with local services in Montana or talk with your doctor or medical practitioner. Finally, you can call BPD's non-emergency line at (406) 582-2000. We're here to help.

Notable Cases



On March 13, officers responded to a disturbance with a weapon call. The reporting party said that he was trying to stop his girlfriend from buying drugs at a local residence when a man exited the residence with a shotgun and shot his car. He also reported he had been shot in the arm.

The investigation determined that there was no physical evidence of gunshots, and no one had heard or reported gunshots in the area. Damage to the suspect's car was inconsistent with bullet flight, and it did not seem reasonable that the suspect's wound was due to a shotgun shot. Additionally, the suspect sent threatening messages to his girlfriend and tampered with physical evidence by deleting text messages in front of officers. The suspect was charged with False Reports to Law Enforcement Authorities and Tampering With Or Fabricating Physical Evidence.



On March 14, an officer was dispatched to a traffic crime in progress. Multiple people had called in reports, including a report that the vehicle had driven into a ditch and come back up onto the middle of road and a report from a local citizen that the driver, her boyfriend, had told her he was driving while intoxicated. The officer then witnessed the vehicle driving recklessly, including running a stop sign, speeding through a parking lot, and driving through a ditch and onto the sidewalk at a local clinic. The officer activated their lights and eventually stopped the vehicle.

The driver climbed over into the passenger side, then out of the car. He claimed that he was not the driver, but he was the only person inside the vehicle. Officers located alcoholic beverages on the floorboard, and the driver appeared drunk. The driver refused to participate in Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and refused a blood and breath test. A warrant was applied for and received for the driver's blood. He was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs – 4th or Subsequent, Driving a Motor Vehicle While Privilege To Do So Is Suspended, Reckless Driving, and Stop Sign Violation.

Outreach Highlights

March Activities:

- Discussed BPD monthly updates with KSKY
- Hosted Week One of Citizens Police Academy, an eight-week program to help community members connect with and learn about the Bozeman Police Department
- Met with high school students to talk about law enforcement for Senior Projects
- Hosted station tours for individuals and schools
- Taught local children about SWAT and Patrol during Ridge Kids, a day camp at a local gym



People Update

Special Services Supervisor Luly completed her first year in her role. Thank you to Luly for your leadership and guidance in the Special Services Officer group. Congratulations on this milestone!

Officers Waller and Reid completed their probation periods. They are now confirmed police officers. Congratulations on completing the first year of your service with the BPD!



Deep Dive: Why Teams?

A few years ago, the Bozeman Police Department made a data-driven decision to create teams in the Patrol Division. These teams of five to eight officers, supervised by a sergeant, work consistent schedules of four ten-hour days together. There are six BPD patrol teams, split between day, evening, and night shifts, plus patrol special operations, which includes the traffic enforcement unit, crash investigator, K-9 handlers, and animal control officers. Patrol teams benefit BPD and Bozeman in a variety of ways. The teams allow for consistent supervision and strong management, since the sergeant works alongside their team and can celebrate officers' successes while improving deficiencies. Patrol team cohesion comes from both regular workdays together and team days, days where a team is out of the regular call rotation and can focus on completing trainings, catching up on paperwork, proactively policing, and engaging with the Bozeman community. A consistent team schedule also means that officers get proper rest and recovery time between workdays. Finally, patrol teams are assigned regular beats in Bozeman, so community members will get to know the officers in their neighborhood. Overall, patrol teams help officers grow professionally, form bonds with fellow officers, and connect with the community.



Training Highlights



Scenario Day

On March 16, during spring break, the Bozeman Police Department completed a scenario day staged at a local elementary school. On scenario days, BPD members train for emergency situations they might encounter in the line of duty. During this scenario day, officers trained on initial law enforcement responses to active killing situations and formation of Rescue Task Force (RTF) groups with Bozeman Fire Department to provide medical care. Local community members volunteered as role-players for the training.

Training Highlights (Con't)

Hosted at the BPSC

BPD hosted several trainings with numerous BPD officers in attendance. These courses brought in officers from across Montana, as well as out-of-state officers. Training topics included Street Crimes, Tactical Leadership, and Overdose Death Investigations.

Other Trainings

Lt. Ellingson attended Administration, Management, and Supervision of FTO Programs in Helena. Officer Bridge assisted as a Firearms Instructor during one of the firearms weeks at Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA), and Sergeant Musson assisted as an Active Shooter Instructor during the two-day Active Shooter training at MLEA. SSO Supervisor Luly attended Court Security Officer Certification in Wyoming. ACO Ewing completed her ACO Level 1 training. Finally, CRO Sanders and Sergeant Musson taught de-escalation and Avoid, Deny, Defend classes.

Department Highlight

The **Special Victims Unit** is a joint unit between Montana State University and Bozeman Police departments that investigates sexual crimes and crimes against children. The unit is comprised of five detectives, four from BPD and one from MSU, all supervised by the Detective Sergeant. Two investigators work with physical and sexual crimes against children, two investigators work with physical and sexual crimes against adults, and one investigator works with Internet crimes against children.

SVU detectives' specialization in the types of crimes they investigate allows them to train extensively to develop their knowledge and experience. The team collaborates with local community partners to solve cases. The SVU also does extensive community outreach to educate local organizations on signs of abuse and victim resources, form connections between the department and these organizations, and be a public presence for the community.

Though SVU cases are often difficult cases, the SVU encourages the Bozeman community to come forward and report their experiences. The department is here for you.



Thank You!

Questions? Please contact Chief Veltkamp:

jveltkamp@bozeman.net

Resource Page

Commonly Used Acronyms

ACO stands for Animal Control Officer

CFS stands for Calls for Service

CPA stands for Citizens Police Academy

CRO stands for Community Resource Officer

SRO stands for School Resource Officer

SSO stands for Special Services Officer