Graffiti:

What does it say? What can YOU do about it?

Graffiti in Portland comes in 5 basic types:

- ***TAGGER***
- ***GANG***
- ***COMMUNICATIVE***
- ***HATE***
- ***ART***

"TAGGER" graffiti is the most prevalent type in Portland. 80-85% of all graffiti in Portland fits this description. It may be simple line-letters, or elaborate, colorful designs, "pieces" or "throw-ups". Most of the TAGGERs arrested in Portland ARE NOT juveniles (under 18 years of age)…the median age for TAGGERS in Portland is 20 years of age. Taggers may travel or associate with a "crew" whose members may all use one tag plus their own "moniker", and hang out together…the photo shows a "roll call" of taggers around the monikers of "TAHOE" and "PESTOE". Some taggers aspire to be recognized for their ***"ART"***…larger, showier "pieces"…that may include a moniker in the colorful design.

Examples of local Tagger Crew tags:

AIDS – Art Is Dying Slowly
PBSK – Portland Bombing Squad Krew
NQD – Not Quite Dead
HOD, HODK – Hand of Doom
TMR – The Most Retarded
MLS— My Life Sucks, Most Likely Suspects
ADK – All Day Killers

KWC – Kuz We Can, Kids With Cans
VRS – Vandal Ran Society
VTS – Vandal Team Supreme, Very Top Secret

**Note: "K" at the end refers to Krew*

GANG graffiti is growing in Portland. City-wide it accounts for 13-15% of all graffiti-vandalism. In some neighborhoods, it is a much higher percentage of the graffiti. GANG graffiti is the way gang members communicate with each other. Most of the GANG graffiti currently seen in Portland is done by Hispanic or Latino/Latina gang members or wanna-be's. (A growing number of gang-vandals are young females). Also, most of the people arrested for doing GANG graffiti lately have been juveniles.

Examples of local gang graffiti:

SUR – Sureno
STC – Sureno Treces Califas
LMV – Loco Mafia Varrio
X3 – 13th St.
XV3 – 18th St.
BPC –Brown Pride Chicana(s)

CVS – Compton Varrio Segundo
310 – area code
PRB – Paso Robles Boys
FK – Family Kings
TLC – Tiny Locos Clique
503 – area code

COMMUNICATIVE graffiti accounts for approximately 1.5% of all graffiti reported in Portland. This number may be higher in election years. Much of this graffiti is seen on City property, like STOP signs, because the vandal only has to write one or two words under STOP to get his message across.

HATE graffiti is less than 1% of all reported graffiti in the City. It can appear at specific times of the year. Satanic graffiti usually appears to be the work of kids trying it out…not an organized cult or group.

What can be done about Graffiti?

- Report it to:
  - Office of Neighborhood Involvement-**Graffiti Hotline – 503-823-4824**
    - Or Police Non-emergency 503-823-3333 (weekends or Holidays)
    - OR – If you witness it occurring, 9-1-1
  - Online – www.portlandonline.com/oni - Select 'Report a graffiti problem'

- Take Photos and send to Graffiti Abatement:
  - Digital photos (no larger than 1M, please) to: marcia.dennis@portlandoregon.gov
  - Hard copies or Photo CDs to: 4747 E Burnside, Portland, OR 97215

- Remove it:
  - From your own property, paint it out, or check out a removal kit with solvent from one of 9 fire stations (kits contain solvent to be used to 'wipe-off' graffiti).
  - If you need **free** assistance, please call 503-823-5860 to put in a request if yours is owner-occupied residential property, non-profit, or small business location.
  - Volunteer to remove from properties in the right-of-way: Go to webpage at www.portlandonline.com/oni 'report a graffiti problem' and see sign up sheets, and other information about volunteering to remove graffiti.
  - Chronic locations – for your own property, contact your neighborhood **Crime Prevention Coordinator*** for free assistance in 'target-hardening' techniques, i.e., tips to make your property more secure and less vulnerable to graffiti and other vandalism.

- **Note:** All online reports are automatically sent to Graffiti Abatement for referral to responsible agency for removal. Public property is cleaned by a number of agencies, representing City of Portland; Multnomah County; Metro; State of Oregon; and US Postal Service to name a few.

- Graffiti vandals are arrested at an average rate of 3 per week. By reporting and accurately documenting the "tags", community members help the police and district attorneys build strong cases that will result in prosecution. Repeat offenders are often sentenced to jail time, and are also ordered to pay restitution to the victims. It is also helpful to have community members or businesses willing to testify or come to court for trial or sentencing of a convicted graffiti vandal. **Your help is important!**

*Useful Phone Numbers

Police Non-Emergency		503-823-3333
Graffiti Hotline		503-823-4TAG (4824)
Graffiti Abatement Coordinator	Dennis LoGiudice	503-823-9666
North Portland Crime Prevention	Sara Hussein	503-823-4098
	Angela Wagnon	503-823-4094
	Celeste Carey	503-823-4764
Central NE (North Pct)	Mary Tompkins	503-823-4763
Central NE Neighbors (East Pct)	Brad A. Taylor	503-823-2781
*SE Crime Prevention**	Katherine Anderson	503-823-3432
	Jacob Brostoff	503-823-0540
East Crime Prevention	Sam Freeman	503-823-3505
	Teri Poppino	503-823-5532
SW Crime Prevention	Stefanie Adams	503-823-3131
NW Crime Prevention	Jenni Bernheisel	503-823-4257
Downtown Crime Prevention	Mike Boyer	503-823-5852

Please note: **Graffiti**, by legal definition, is vandalism. (See ORS 164.383 or Portland City Code 14B.80) It is the **unauthorized** application of markings on someone else's property, i.e., WITHOUT PERMISSION.

* *Out of Central Precinct*