



## HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



For emergencies or crimes occurring in progress: **Dial 9-1-1**

For non-emergency incidents: **Dial (856)461-3434**

Suspicious activities can refer to incidents, events, individuals or circumstances that seem unusual or out of place. Calling the Police to just say that there is a suspicious person on your street does not constitute dispatching an officer. You need specific, timely and relevant information so that the appropriate response can be achieved.

### **Some common examples of suspicious activities include:**

A stranger loitering in your neighborhood who is stopping to look at houses or into yards, or a vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly; someone peering into cars or windows; a high volume of traffic going to and coming from a home on a daily basis; someone loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas; strange odors coming from a house or building; open or broken doors and windows at a closed business or unoccupied residence; someone tampering with electrical, gas or sewer systems without an identifiable company vehicle or uniform; sounds of breaking glass, gunshots, screaming or fighting; strangers removing license plates or loading valuables into vehicles from a residence even if the moving truck looks legitimate.

When reporting **SUSPICIOUS PERSONS**, provide as much detail as possible. Start with the basics and get more specific. One reliable method to consistently make good suspect descriptions is to begin at the head and work your way down. For example: "He was a white male with blonde hair. He was wearing a brown shirt, blue jeans and sneakers." or "She was a black female about twenty years old, short hair, thin build and wearing a red cotton dress and sandals."

### **List of items you can describe when providing a suspect description:**

Sex – male or female  
Race – white, black, Asian or Hispanic or other  
Approximate Age  
Approximate Height and weight  
Hair color and style  
Complexion – skin tone, imperfections  
Speech – accent, slurred, vulgar  
Scars – tattoos, facial hair, glasses  
General appearance – dirty, well-groomed  
Clothing – color, style, shoes, jewelry

When reporting **SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES**, provide as much information as possible about the vehicle:

### **List of items to report:**

Make – (Ford, Chevrolet, Honda)  
Model – (Escort, Impala, Pick-up truck)  
Year  
Color  
License plate number and state  
Bumper stickers, damage or dents, lettering  
Direction of travel – ("east on State street")  
Occupants – ("one male and one female about high school age")

When reporting **LOCATIONS OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES**, provide as much information as possible. An exact location and specific address is always best if possible.

To assist law enforcers in responding to your request:

- Provide exact address if possible
- Provide cross streets or closest major intersection
- In rural areas, provide county road numbers or mile markers along state or federal highways.

Provide landmarks that can be recognized by law enforcers or emergency responders. Describe the location with as much detail as possible.

**NEVER APPROACH A SUSPICIOUS SUBJECT! CALL THE POLICE TO INVESTIGATE.**