

WHY CALL THE POLICE?

Since the police cannot be everywhere – at all times the battle against crime relies on the involvement of both police and citizens. For this reason, the effective functioning of a police department is dependent on citizen cooperation and their resistance to crime.

- *Many crimes would never have been committed if more citizens would have been alert to suspicious activity and took it upon themselves to contact the police.*

WHEN SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?

- Whenever you observe suspicious activity, even though you may not be the only observer, CALL THE POLICE. Never rely on the next person to do what you should have done. The police would rather receive multiple calls concerning the same incident than none at all.
- Sometimes citizens fail to act because they are not sure if what they are observing is suspicious activity.
 - **A good rule to follow is: When in doubt, call the POLICE, IMMEDIATELY!** Don't wait to discuss the events with friends or family first. Valuable police response time is lost this way.
- Don't be concerned about bothering the police.
 - Don't dwell on your possible embarrassment if your suspicions should prove unfounded.
 - **Think of what COULD HAPPEN, if you don't act! Next time, IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!**

WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?

The following examples of what to watch for may be helpful in determining when to call for police assistance.

- A stranger entering your neighbor's home while your neighbor is away or someone

crossing your or a neighbor's yard; anyone trying a neighbor's door; a moving truck or van pulling up to a neighbor's house while they are away.

- Burglaries often occur at times when appearances seem normal.
 - Someone carrying certain types of property, i.e., a T.V., stereo, etc especially when those items are not wrapped as if just purchased.
 - The sound of breaking glass - this could indicate a possible burglary or vandalism.
- Anyone observed peering into vehicles as they walk down the street or someone removing license plates, gasoline or accessories from a vehicle someone attempting to enter a vehicle using a coat hanger or other device. Never assume that it is the owner who has mistakenly locked their keys in the vehicle.
- Be suspicious of anyone tampering with the hood or trunk of a vehicle.
- An improperly parked car an abandoned vehicle someone leaving one vehicle and driving away in another. These may be signs of a vehicle theft.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle could indicate a possible abduction.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, or in the neighborhood. These could be possible sex offenders, drug dealers or burglars.
- Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools or parks and if juveniles are involved a constant flow of strangers to and from a particular residence on a regular basis especially at late or unusual hours could all be indicative of drug sales or a possible fencing operation.
- Offers of merchandise or repair work at unusually low prices could indicate stolen

property or some form of fraudulent scheme.

- Persons involved in a fight any loud explosions or screams sex offenses, robbery or assaults are among the crimes that COULD be occurring.
- Door to door solicitors without a properly issued permit.

CALL THE POLICE!!

- To report any suspicious activity, call your local police department. **Do not call 911 unless it is an EMERGENCY.**
- Your local police department will ask for your name, address and telephone number. This information is requested in case additional contact with you becomes necessary. You may remain anonymous if you wish. Any information provided to the police department is kept in confidence. If you do not wish personal contact with the responding officer, let them know.

- **INFORMATION MOST OFTEN NEEDED BY POLICE**

- What happened?
- When?
- Where?
- Is anyone injured?
- Vehicle license number.
- Vehicle description.
- Direction of flight.
- Description of persons (including clothing).

**BE ALERT, BE OBSERVANT--
Features which you can remember regarding the physical characteristics of suspicious persons or assailants can greatly assist your police department in their apprehension.**