



No police department can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. We are depending on you to call and tell us whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions.

Some people fail to call the police simply because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and are hesitant to call for fear of being seen as a "nosey neighbor". Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called.

Call the Newport Beach Police immediately about all suspicious activity.

- ☎ **Don't** assume that someone else has already called.
- ☎ **Don't** worry about "bothering" us that's why we're here.
- ☎ **Don't** be embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded.

Think instead about what could happen if you don't act.

WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?

Basically, anything that seems "out of place" for your area or for the time of day during which it is occurring may indicate criminal activity.

Some of the most obvious things to watch for and report include:

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when they are away maybe a burglar.
- Someone screaming might indicate a robbery or rape has occurred.
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices are often too good to be true and might actually be stolen property.
- Anyone removing accessories, a license plate, or gasoline from a car should be reported.

- Anyone peering into parked cars maybe looking to steal a car or the valuables inside.
- Persons entering or leaving a business after hours may not be workers, but burglars.
- The sound of breaking glass or a loud explosive noise might indicate an accident, burglary or vandalism.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, and neighborhoods might be sex offenders waiting for a victim.

SUSPICIOUS SITUATIONS - ARE THEY WHAT THEY SEEM OR SOMETHING?

- When you see someone going door-to-door in your neighborhood, watch for a while. Do they turn the doorknob to see if it's locked? Do they go around to the side or rear yard to see if someone is home? If so these individuals might be burglars. Such action is even more suspicious if one-person remains in front of the house or if there is a car following the individuals.
- Someone waiting in front of a house or business becomes suspect if the owner is absent, or the business is closed. This person might be a lookout for a burglary in progress.
- Anyone tampering or forcing their way into a residence, business, or vehicle is suspicious anytime, anywhere.
- A person running, especially if they are carrying something of value, could be leaving the scene of a crime.
- A person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms maybe injured, under the influence of drugs, or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.
- Heavy foot or vehicle traffic to and from a certain residence is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours. Such activity might suggest drug sales or a "fencing" operation.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO WATCH FOR INVOLVING VEHICLES

- ☞ Any vehicle moving slowly without lights, or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive, is suspicious in any location but particularly so in areas of schools, parks, and playgrounds. Occupants maybe "casing" a place to rob or burglarize or they might be drug dealers or a sex offender.
- ☞ Parked occupied vehicles containing one or more persons are especially suspicious if observed at an unusual hour. They could be possible lookouts for a burglary in progress, even if the occupants appear to be lovers.
- ☞ Vehicles being loaded with valuables are suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or unattended residence – even if the vehicle looks legitimate. More and more professional thieves are taking the time and trouble to "customize" their vehicles with special signs in order to move more freely without suspicion.
- ☞ An apparent business transaction conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools or parks and if juveniles are involved, could mean possible drug sales.
- ☞ A person being forced into a vehicle, especially a juvenile or female maybe a possible kidnapping.
- ☞ An abandoned vehicle parked on your block may be a stolen car.

SOME NOT SO OBVIOUS THINGS TO WATCH FOR

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal by any means.

There are many legitimate door-to-door salesmen, repairmen, and servicemen moving around Newport Beach all the time. Criminals take advantage of this by assuming the guise of legitimate business representatives. After all, if a criminal looked like a criminal, no one would have any trouble spotting him.

OTHER UNUSUAL SITUATIONS YOU SHOULD REPORT

- Continuous "repair operations" at a non-business location might indicate the occupants are repainting, stripping, or otherwise altering stolen property.
- Open or broken doors or windows at a closed business or residence whose owners are absent could mean a burglary has occurred or is in progress.
- Unusual noises such as gunshots, screams, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs, or anything that might suggest foul play, danger, or illegal activity should be reported.

While some, if not all, of the suspicious situations described may have innocent explanations, the Newport Beach Police Department would rather investigate suspicious activity than be called when it is too late. Through community awareness and police contact a criminal might be stopped before he or she makes someone a victim. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a criminal act.

WHEN YOU CALL THE POLICE BE PREPARED TO GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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



When describing suspects, notice their age, race, sex, height and weight. To help you figure the suspect's weight and height compare it with your own. Pick out any unique characteristics the suspect might have for future identification.

For further information on crime prevention please call the Newport Beach Crime Prevention Unit at (949) 644-3699.

Newport Beach POLICE DEPARTMENT

Business Line
644-3717

Emergency
911



WHAT'S SUSPICIOUS?

Visit us on the Web at
www.nbpd.org

NEWPORT BEACH Police Department



What's Suspicious?