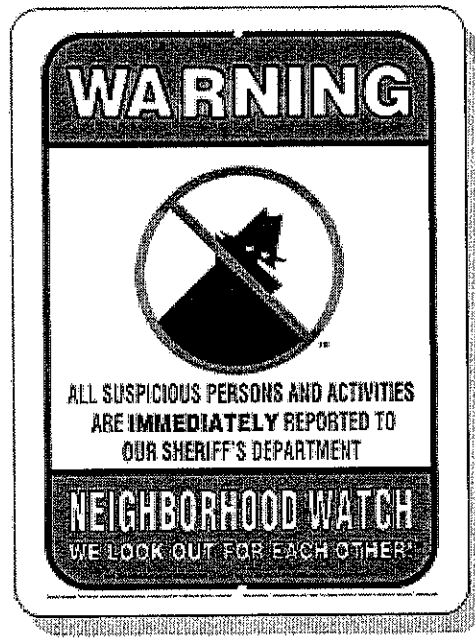


Neighborhood

Watch

Suspicious Activities



CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AS SUSPICIOUS:

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

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY about all suspicious activity. DO NOT worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove to be unfounded. THINK INSTEAD ABOUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF YOU *DO NOT* ACT.

Things to look for

Anything that seems "out of place," or that is occurring at an unusual time of day could be criminal activity. Some things to watch for and report include:

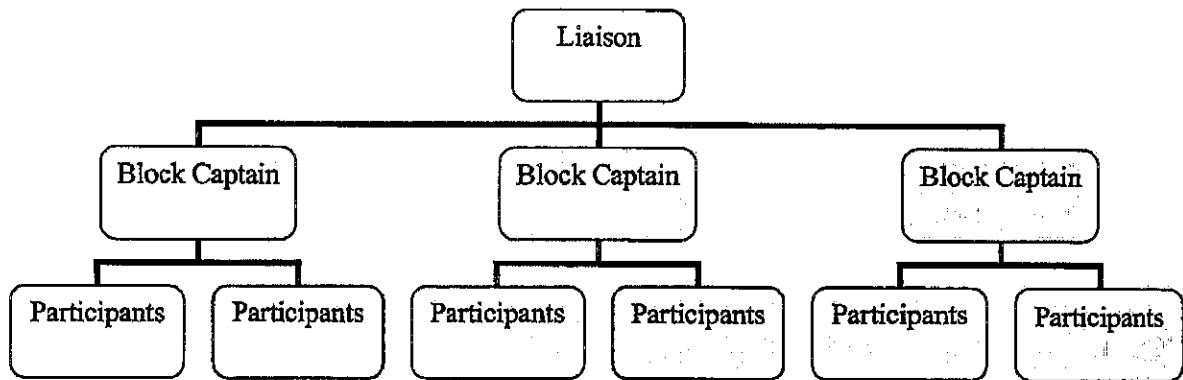
- A person or vehicle stays in the same place for an unusual length of time.
- A parked car with the engine running.
- A person behaves strangely or exhibits unusual movements.
- A person concealing an object or carrying a weapon.
- A person looking into cars, moving from car to car, and/or tries door handles.
- A person looking into offices, patient rooms, labs, windows, or forcibly entering a car or a room.
- A person running from an area for no apparent reason, especially at night.
- A person carrying/transporting unusual/valuable objects, day or night.
- A person sells/conducts business out of their car, van, truck, or other vehicle.
- A vehicle drives around your block frequently, slowing down, speeding up.
- A vehicle without lights on, arriving or leaving at night.
- A person you don't know offering candy or gifts to children.
- Vehicle containing weapons Suspicious under almost any circumstances.
- Exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms. Do not approach these people.
- Abandoned vehicle possible stolen car.
- Going door to door in residential or business area Especially suspicious if, after few houses are visited, one or more of the subjects goes into a back or side yard. More suspicious if another remains in the front when this occurs.
- Waiting in front of a house or business particularly suspicious if owners are absent, or, if it's a business and the establishment is closed.
- Forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, vehicle, etc. Suspicious under almost any circumstances.
- Certain moving vehicles especially if slow moving and without lights, or if the course followed appears aimless or repetitive. This is suspicious in any location, but particularly in the area of schools, parks, or playgrounds.
- Persons detaching mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle Suspicious especially at night in the street or in a parking lot.
- Unusual Noises, etc. Gunshots', screaming, sounds of fighting/combat, abnormally barking dog, anything suggestive of foul play, danger, or illegal activity.

Remember, there are many activities that could be considered suspicious. A suspicious activity is an occurrence that is out of place and should not be happening in our community. There could be reasonable explanations for some suspicious activities. By thinking things through, being observant and using common sense, you will be able to make a good judgment about whether an activity is suspicious. If you call the police and you were wrong, its okay, you will not be in trouble. Your role as a concerned citizen is to report whatever you think is wrong or suspicious.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS/CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

1. You see a crime or suspicious activity in your neighborhood.
2. You immediately report what you have observed to the police.
3. Report the incident to your Block Captain.(Liaison if the Block Captain is not available)
4. Block Captain reports the incident to the Liaison.
5. Liaison notifies the other Block Captains who then notify their respective participants.

CALLING TREE DIAGRAM



TRY TO REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

DO NOT PLACE YOURSELF IN DANGER TO GET INFORMATION!

- What happened?
- Time and place?
- Was anyone hurt?
- Description of suspect(s)
- Description of vehicle(s)
- License plate number
- Time and direction of travel
- Additional details and circumstances
- Remain on the telephone until you are certain the police department has all the necessary information.
- If it is suspicious to you, it's suspicious to us. It is better to be safe than sorry.
- In your area, we do not always know what is suspicious and what is not.
- It is up to you, the Community members, to let us know when you see suspicious activity! Report it immediately!

How to Describe a Suspect:

Try to notice and remember the Following characteristics of a suspect. By paying attention to these features, you will be able to give a more accurate description of the suspect.

- Sex
- Race
- Complexion
- Age
- Height (estimate in 2 inch blocks, for example: between 5'8" and 5'10")
- Weight (estimate in blocks of 10 pounds; for example; 160 to 170 pounds)
- Build (large, medium, small, stocky, slender, plus and distinguishing features on parts of the body like tattoos, eyeglasses, scars, etc.)
- Hair (color, thick, thin, balding, mustaches, or beard)
- Clothing (color, type, style- start at the top and work down: hat, coat, shirt, pants, and shoes)
- Direction of travel.



Describing a Vehicle:

Train yourself to notice the following details about vehicles so you can report them to your dispatcher.



- Color
- Year
- Make
- Body Type (sedan, two-door, convertible, station wagon, SUV, etc.)
- License number (specify state)
- Hint: use the acronym **CYMBAL** = **C**olor, **Y**ear, **M**ake, **B**ody And **L**icense
- Also look for identifying marks such as specialty attachments, dents, damage, etc.

Smyrna Police Department

House Check Program

The Smyrna Police Department provides house checks to residents who are away from their homes on business or vacations. At the beginning of each shift, officers are notified of the homes that will be unoccupied and, as time permits, they will check the exterior of the residence that are accessible to verify it is secure.

To set up a house check, please stop by or call the Smyrna Police Department at 770-434-6666.

Exceptions:

- **Houses that are "For Sale" and empty do not qualify for the House Check Program.**
- **Rental houses that are empty between rentals, do not qualify for the House Check Program.**