



**FORT WORTH
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION**

What is Suspicious?

No police department can function effectively without the assistance of responsible residents. Officers depend on you to report suspicious people or activities.

Some people fail to call police because they don't recognize some activities as suspicious. Others may observe suspicious people but are hesitant to report them for fear of "causing trouble" or seeming to be a "nosy neighbor". Still other people assume that someone else will call the police.

You should always call the police immediately to report suspicious activity.

Don't be embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think about what might happen if you don't call. The police are ready to talk to you and appreciate your help. Look inside this pamphlet to learn more about what is considered suspicious.

Crime Prevention Begins with You

- Call the Fort Worth Police Department to request a free home security evaluation.
- Organize and participate in Neighborhood Crime Watch or Citizens on Patrol – Code Blue.



- Mark your property with your driver's license number, following this example: TX000000000DL.

For more information, call the Crime Prevention Specialist serving your area:

Central Division: 817-392-3997

East Division:817-392-5520

North Division:682-225-0517

Northwest Division: 817-392-3537

South Division:817-392-3405

West Division: 817-991-8476

**Help the Fort Worth Police Help You –
Always Report Suspicious People
and Activities**



The Fort Worth Police Department is just one of the many services provided by the City of Fort Worth. To find out more about city services, visit fortworthtexas.gov.

**Emergency 911
Non-emergency 817-392-4222**



Is It Suspicious?

Anything that seems “out of place” for a particular area or time of day can indicate possible criminal activity such as burglary, theft or assault. Some obvious situations to watch for and report include:

- A scream
- Sound of breaking glass, gunshots or loud explosive noises

An unfamiliar person

- Entering a neighbor’s house when no one is home
- Loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas
- Who does not live in a neighborhood loitering in the area
- Peering into a parked car
- Removing license plates, accessories or gasoline from a car
- Entering or leaving a business when it is closed
- Selling merchandise at ridiculously low prices

Some Not So Obvious Things to Watch For

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal. Many are legitimate sales and service personnel. However, some criminals conceal their true purposes by assuming the guise of legitimate business representatives. If a criminal looked like a criminal, then no one would have trouble spotting one.

Consider the following situations:

- Someone is going door to door on your

street. If after visiting a few houses, the person tries a door to see if it’s locked, or goes to a side or backyard, he or she may be a burglar. There also could be another person in a “lookout” position in front of the house.

- Anyone waiting in front of a house or business is suspicious if the residents are not home or the business is closed.
- Anyone forcing or attempting to force entry into a house, business or vehicle is suspicious – anytime, anywhere.
- A person carrying property if the hour or place is unusual, or if the property is not wrapped as though just purchased.
- Excessive traffic to and from a particular residence if it occurs very regularly, daily or during late or unusual hours. This may indicate drug dealing or other criminal activity.
- Someone exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms may be injured, under the influence or alcohol or drugs, or may need medical or psychiatric assistance.

Watch for Suspicious Vehicles

- Any vehicle moving slowly and without lights, or driving in an aimless or repetitive pattern may be suspicious, particularly if this occurs near schools, parks or playgrounds. The driver may be “casing” places to burglarize, or may be a drug dealer or sexual predator.
- People sitting in parked cars are especially significant if observed at an unusual hour. They could be burglary “lookouts” even if they look like a couple.
- Vehicles being loaded with valuables when parked in front of a business that is closed or a residence when no one is home, even if the vehicle appears to be a legitimate commercial vehicle. Some professional thieves customize their vehicles with signs to avoid suspicion.
- Someone parking a vehicle on one street and walking to another street could be a burglar

trying to conceal the vehicle.

- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially near schools or parks and involving juveniles.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- An abandoned vehicle parked on your block.

Other Unusual Situations You Should Notice and Report

- Continuous “repair” operations at a non-business location could mean stolen property is involved.
- Open or broken doors or windows at a business after hours or at a home when residents are away.
- Unusual noises such as dogs barking excessively or anything that suggests criminal activity.
- Unusually strong chemical odors in a residential area or near a storage building may indicate an illegal drug operation.

While any of the above situations could have an innocent explanation, the police department would rather investigate suspicious activity than be called after it is too late to prevent a crime or apprehend a suspect.

Remember, your call could save a life, prevent an injury or stop a criminal.

Information needed by police

- What happened or is happening?
- Location?
- Is anyone injured and how seriously?
- When did you observe the person or activity?
- Description of vehicle involved and license plate number
- Suspect description: age, race, sex, clothing and any unique characteristics or mannerisms
- Compare your height and weight to give a reasonable estimate