



Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Community Support and Crime Prevention Services
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What Is "Suspicious Activity"?

– It is about behaviors and activities, NOT about how a person looks.

Suspicious activity is any behavior or activity that seems unusual or out-of-place. Suspicious behavior can be anything; however here are some examples of behaviors and activities that may be associated with criminal activity:

- People looking into parked vehicles, trying doors of different vehicles, or hiding from passing traffic
- Alarms sounding or glass being broken
- Slow moving vehicles (at night without lights) driving aimlessly
- Apparent business transactions being conducted from a vehicle
- Someone seen being forced into a vehicle
- Persons dressed inappropriately for the weather (ex: wearing heavy coats in summer)
- Strangers looking into neighbors' homes when they are gone
- Abandoned vehicle parked on your block
- Someone seen with a weapon
- People monitoring or photographing building or location security or security procedures
- Briefcases, backpacks, or packages that have been left behind / unattended
- Cars or trucks left in "No Parking Zones" in front of important buildings or locations
- Intruders in secure areas where they are not supposed to be
- Chemical smells or fumes that worry you
- People asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans, or VIP travel schedules without a right or need to know
- People purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without the proper credentials

While some, if not all, of the above situations could have innocent explanations, the Sheriff's Office would rather proactively respond than be called to investigate a crime days later.

If you are unsure about whether to report a suspicious activity that you see, **REPORT IT**, and let the law enforcement decide what to do with the information. Reporting is easy!

How to report? Call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe to do

When calling 9-1-1 be prepared to answer: "Where is your emergency?" and "What is your emergency?" and "Who is calling?"

Basically, when talking with the 9-1-1 telecommunicator it is important to: Stay calm; Speak clearly; Explain what is happening; Provide your exact location; Answer all questions; Do not hang up until asked to. They are working to discover what is happening, where it is happening and what resources to send your way.

When reporting suspicious activity be as specific as possible about what you are witnessing:

- **Location** – address, block number, specific location, or intersection
- **Activity** – what suspicious activity are you reporting
- **Description of suspect** – sex, race, age, heights, weight, hair color and length, facial hair, colors and style of clothing
- **Description of vehicle** – color, model, make, license number, unique features (damage etc.)
- **Direction** – if the subject flees give direction of travel, vehicle information