

## *You, Yours and Crime Resistance - Part 1 of 2*

# What you should report to the police

The citizens and police must work together as a team to counter crime. Police officers cannot be everywhere. They must depend upon you to report violations of the law or suspicious events and persons.

Many people are hesitant to call the police because they don't know what activities should be considered "suspicious." Others are worried about "bothering" the police or being embarrassed if their suspicions are unfounded. Others don't call because they assume someone else has already called. Some just do not want to get "involved."

Everyone should respond to suspicious activity as they would want their neighbor to respond if their own family needed assistance or their property was being threatened.

### WHAT IS "SUSPICIOUS?"

Whether or not an event is "suspicious" depends upon what is "normal" activity under the same circumstances. In many ways, the term "suspicious" is synonymous with "unusual."

Other activity may not be so obvious. Depending on the circumstances, these activities could possibly be considered "suspicious."

- ▶ Anyone forcibly entering a car or home.
- ▶ Someone who runs from a home or business.
- ▶ Anyone with a weapon.
- ▶ Someone screaming.
- ▶ A stranger offering young children candy or money.
- ▶ Any indication that a home or business has been forcibly entered or telephone wires cut.
- ▶ Someone whose dress or demeanor is not compatible with the neighborhood.
- ▶ A person who seems to have no purpose in the neighborhood.
- ▶ A stranger carrying what could be burglary loot—a radio, TV, pillowcase, suitcase—in your neighborhood.
- ▶ Strangers looking into parked cars or into the windows of homes, garages, or other structures.
- ▶ An individual who rings a doorbell of a home and then walks around to the rear of the house.
- ▶ Adults loitering around schools, playgrounds, or secluded areas.
- ▶ A car that seems to be "cruising" an area.
- ▶ A car that speeds through or away from a location.
- ▶ Moving, delivery, or maintenance trucks parked at unoccupied homes.
- ▶ A car that has been parked at the same location several days and is strange to the neighborhood, particularly if it has out-of-town license plates.
- ▶ Vehicles with broken trunk or ignition locks.
- ▶ Dirty license plates on a clean car.

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## GETTING A GOOD DESCRIPTION

Being observant and being able to remember what you have seen is very important. Try to fix an image of the persons and vehicles in your mind. Try to remember exactly what happened. It is often helpful to immediately write down your observations.

Here are some of the facts about persons that police need:

- ▶ Sex
- ▶ Race
- ▶ Age
- ▶ Height
- ▶ Weight
- ▶ Hair color---style
- ▶ Eyes
- ▶ Clothing—start at top (hat) and describe to the bottom (shoes)
- ▶ Build
- ▶ Any physical deformities or characteristics
- ▶ Speech pattern

Police need as much information as you can remember about the vehicles involved, such as:

- ▶ License number (usually most important)
- ▶ Color make year
- ▶ Body style
- ▶ Visible damage
- ▶ Accessories (luggage rack—CB antenna)
- ▶ Direction of travel
- ▶ Number of occupants and their descriptions

Vehicle Information:

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ▶ License Tag Number _____ | Model of Car _____ |
| ▶ Make of Car _____        | Body Style _____   |
| ▶ Year _____               | Accessories _____  |
| ▶ Color _____              | Damage _____       |

# What you should report to the police

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

- ▶ Time is essential. Call the police immediately.
- ▶ Remain calm and give the following information:
  - Your name and telephone number
  - What you have observed
  - Where and when you observed the event
  - Complete descriptions of person(s) and vehicle(s).

## CRIME RESISTANCE COURTESY

Practice crime resistance courtesy. When you see an opportunity for criminal activity against another person, take a few moments and exert a little extra effort to tell or show the person who is vulnerable exactly how he can avoid becoming a victim.

It takes just a minute to remind someone who is leaving one's car unattended and unlocked that he has made one's car a potential target for car thieves.

When a neighbor's child leaves a bicycle on the front lawn, a neighborly reminder will help prevent that bicycle from being stolen.

The opportunities for crime can be reduced if everyone makes crime resistance courtesy a part of everyday life. Such courtesy can be infectious.

You can impart it to others in your neighborhood and community. If crime resistance courtesy can become a part of the lives of all Americans, we could certainly expect to have a much safer nation.

**“PROTECT OUR PINES, REPORT ALL CRIMES.”**

**For more information**

**Contact the Pembroke Pines Crime Watch Office at**

**954-435-6528**