

CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN



Evanston Police Department
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911/EMERGENCY
847-866-5000/NON-EMERGENCY
<http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/police/>

REPORTING A SUSPICIOUS PERSON/ACTIVITY

For years, one of the cornerstones of community safety has been the reporting of suspicious activities and individuals to the police. Over the years, citizens have stopped countless crimes and saved lives by becoming actively involved in protecting their communities by just being an involved witness when crime strikes their neighborhood. We have often said that the level of response from your police department and the efficiency by which they operate is directly tied to community involvement.



As the additional “eyes and ears” of law enforcement, citizens can help to reduce crime, improve safety and increase the quality of neighborhood life by knowing what to report and how to report it.

Now more than ever, citizens are needed to come forward and provide valuable information to combat local social disorder and even terrorism. Remember: don’t be shy – your job is simply to report, and law enforcement will take your call seriously and check out the situation.

Sometimes it can be confusing about what to report and when to report it. What exactly is a “suspicious activity or person”? A suspicious person or activity can refer to incidents, events, individuals or circumstances that seem unusual or out of place.

Remember the five “W’s” when reporting any suspicious person or activity

WHAT is happening?

WHO is doing it?

WHERE is it taking place?

WHEN did you observe it?

WHY is it suspicious?

Also remember, a quick and accurate description of events, vehicles, and persons can make all the difference in apprehending a potential criminal, so don’t delay your reporting. By reporting these types of suspicious activities citizens can help police make their communities safer and more secure, reduce violence, minimize victimization, reduce crime and violence and improve the overall quality of life. When reporting suspicious persons or vehicles, please provide as much detail as possible. Start with the basics and get more specific. When you have an organized, methodical reporting system you start to talk the language that law enforcers understand and react to. Calling the Police to just say that there is a suspicious person or vehicle on your block does not constitute dispatching an officer. You need specific, timely and relevant information so that the appropriate response can be achieved.

[FOR ADDITIONAL INFO CONTACT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES BUREAU AT 847-866-5019](#)

