## What is Suspicious?

**Behavior is suspicious** - People are not suspicious, what they are doing can be.

#### Examples

- Their behavior displays a sense of urgency, or they have no urgency and no apparent destination.
- Vehicles traveling at a low speed, or at a high speed, especially in the overnight hours.
- Approaching vehicles in driveways, but going to the front door.
- Apparent transactions occurring from a vehicle.
- Vehicles parked in an unusual location, either unoccupied or idling.
- Knocking on your door, but looking for someone you don't know...and doing that at multiple homes. They are checking to see if the home is occupied!

# Calling it in

Who to call - Know where you live and program the non-emergency number into your phone. That number for the Sheriff's Office is 303-795-4711. <u>Always</u> call 911 if it is an emergency.

**Bespecific-**Describe the behavior and location. Answer questions from the dispatcher. They are entering all of the information into the computer for the responding deputy.

**Remain calm -** Speak clearly and remain in a safe location.

Working together, as neighbors and allies, we can promote safety and reduce crime where we live and in the broader community.



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# Dog Walker



The New Neighborhood Watch Program

#### About the Program

Dog Walker Watch is a program developed by the National Association of Town Watch, the same organization that brought National Night Out to our communities.

The Dog Walker Watch program encourages neighbors to assist local law enforcement as extra eyes and ears in the community. The program enhances the partnership between police and community, while teaching neighbors how to effectively observe and report suspicious activity.

#### It's not just for dog walkers! Anyone can participate!

Despite its name, the program is not just for dog walkers. While dog walkers are out frequently and along the same route, so are runners, walkers, and parents out playing with children.



### **Program Goals**

This new version of the neighborhood watch program continues to encourage citizens to participate in crime prevention efforts in their community.

Because law enforcement officers can't be everywhere, citizen involvement is essential. Many arrests of criminals come as a direct result of citizens contacting police about suspicious activity.

People who are familiar with the regular activity in their neighborhood are more likely to promptly and accurately identify suspicious activity.

# Suspicious Activity

Suspicious activity takes into account the totality of the circumstances present to you at the time. What is suspicious activity in one neighborhood might be normal activity in another.

It is important to recognize what is normal for your neighborhood. You can do this by being aware of your surroundings when you are out in your community.



# **Obstacles**

Despite being most aware of their neighborhoods, we often come across residents who didn't contact law enforcement about suspicious activity for a variety of reasons:

- They didn't want to call 911 because they didn't think it was an emergency.
- They didn't know what number to call instead.
- They might have been afraid they were misinterpreting the activity and didn't want to be embarrassed.
- They might have assumed someone else was calling authorities.

All are reasons we have heard many times. This program is designed to empower residents with both the knowledge to know who to call, and the confidence to make that call.

Together, we will help keep neighborhoods safe for all and create an environment where criminals do not want to be.