

CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY SERVICE

SUSPICIOUS?

WHEN and WHY you should call your Police Department

You can make a difference!

Be Alert and report suspicious activity

What kind of information is needed?

- What happened
- Where and when
- Is anyone injured
- Vehicle plate number/description
- Description of persons

When describing persons, notice approximate age, sex, race, height/weight, clothing. Any unique characteristics are helpful.

What is suspicious?

Anything that seems “out of place” for the area or during the time of day in which it occurs. The most obvious things to watch for and report include:

- A stranger entering your neighbor’s house when it is unoccupied.
- A scream or call for help heard anywhere.
- Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gasoline from a car.
- Anyone peering into parked cars in a driveway or lot.

- Persons entering or leaving a place of business after hours.
- The sound of breaking glass or other loud explosive noises.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, or secluded areas.
- Vehicles moving slowly/aimlessly through neighborhoods may be looking for homes to burglarize.

Some not so obvious things to watch for:

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal. There are legitimate door-to-door salesmen, repairmen and servicemen moving around your neighborhood, however, criminals do take advantage of this by assuming the identity of legitimate business persons.

Here are some situations involving people you might see and what their actions might mean.

- Someone going door to door in your neighborhood. Observe the homes that are visited and if one or more of the persons attempts to open a door or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. Watch for one person remaining in the front while another goes in the back.
- Anyone forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, business or vehicle is suspicious anytime, anywhere.
- Carrying property can be suspicious if it's at an unusual hour or place.
- Any person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms may be injured, under the influence of alcohol or drugs or otherwise in need of medical assistance.

Watch for these circumstances involving vehicles:

- Heavy traffic to and from a certain residence is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or regular basis especially during late or unusual hours. It could be the scene of illegal activities.
- Parked, occupied vehicles containing one or more persons are especially significant if observed at unusual hours.
- Vehicles being loaded with valuables are suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or untended residence ~ even if the vehicle is a legitimate looking commercial unit. Professional thieves often customize their vehicles with special signs.
- Transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools or parks and if juveniles are involved. This may be drug sales.
- Persons being forced into any vehicle. Especially juveniles or females may mean kidnapping.
- An abandoned vehicle parked in your neighborhood may be a stolen car.

Other unusual situations you should report:

- Unusual noises such as screaming, fighting, gunshots or abnormal dog barking.
- Open or broken doors or windows at a residence or business whose owners are absent.

Assist your police!

As you read this pamphlet, a police officer is responding to a call to investigate an incident.

Many crimes occur literally “under the noses” of citizens.

The direct reduction of crime in our community is everyone’s responsibility. We need your eyes and ears to help decrease these opportunities to commit crime.

Don’t wait for someone else to report suspicious activity ~ call police immediately even if you wish to remain anonymous.

WHEN IN DOUBT CALL IT OUT

**Emergency 911
Routine 860-693-0221**



Canton Police Department
45 River Road
Canton, CT 06019
860-693-0221

Help us to help you! Police Departments need the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. The police are depending on YOU to call and tell them whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions.