



Reporting Suspicious Activity and Crime

Law enforcement cannot overcome crime without the support of citizens individually and as a community. When you help the Sheriff's Department, you are also helping yourself to keep from becoming a victim of crime. It's a community responsibility!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

If you see a crime being committed, report it immediately and accurately. If you are a victim of crime, report it as soon as possible. Even a five minute delay in reporting can significantly reduce the likelihood of catching the criminal.

Don't hesitate to call if you think something may be wrong, and don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions turn out to be unfounded. Think about what could happen if you *don't* act.

STEP 1: BE ALERT FOR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, such as...

- Someone running from a car or home.
- Someone screaming. Even if you cannot determine what the screams are or exactly from where they are originating, call the Sheriff's Department and report it.
- A person who seems to have no purpose wandering in the neighborhood.
- Any unusual or suspicious noise that you cannot explain, such as breaking glass, pounding, the sound of gunfire, or an aggressively barking dog.
- A business transaction conducted from a vehicle. This could involve the sale of drugs and/or stolen property.
- Offers of merchandise or services at ridiculously low prices. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Strangers carrying property from residences or closed businesses.
- Strangers going into the side or backyard of neighbor's home, especially when the neighbor isn't home. Also report strangers entering a neighbor's home in an unusual manner: through a window, breaking a window, kicking a door down.
- A stranger in a car stopping to beckon a child.
- A child resisting the advances of an adult.
- Abandoned vehicles that could possibly be stolen cars.
- Individuals attempting to forcibly enter a locked vehicle, especially at night or in a parking lot.
- A burglar alarm sounding.
- Excessive traffic to and from a residence, especially during unusual hours.

STEP 2: WRITE IT DOWN

As soon as possible, write down everything you can remember. Don't rely on your memory. It's very easy to get things mixed up or forget details – especially if you were the victim. Be as exact as you can and try to avoid guessing. Keep the following description of persons and vehicles handy where you can find it when needed.

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON

Sex _____

Race _____

Age _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Hair _____

Eyes _____

Complexion _____

Scars _____

Weapon _____

Clothing _____

Build _____

Location Last Seen _____

Direction of Travel _____

Unusual Characteristics (glasses, beard, jewelry) _____

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

2 Door _____ **4 Door** _____

Convert/Van _____

Truck _____

Sports Car _____

Station Wagon _____

Motorcycle _____

Other _____

Make _____ **Model** _____

Year _____

Full Size _____ **Compact** _____

Color _____

License # _____ **State** _____

How people in the vehicle? _____

Male(s) _____ **Female(s)** _____

Unusual characteristics, such as dents, bumps, marks, etc. _____

Location last seen _____

Direction of Travel _____

STEP 3: REPORT THE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR CRIME

The phone number to report suspicious activity is (858) 565-5200

Describe the event as briefly as possible: when, what, where, how, and who did it? Allow the dispatcher to direct the conversation and ask questions. Do not hang up until directed to do so by the dispatcher.

Suspicious activity is different than a crime in progress.

To report a crime in progress or other emergency, **dial 9-1-1.**

Describe your emergency briefly, and do not hang up until directed to do so by the dispatcher.

Remember, the most important information is:

What happened?

When?

Where?

Is anyone injured?

License plate number?

Direction of travel?

Description of persons involved.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING WRONG.

THINK ABOUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T ACT.

For more information, please contact your local Crime Prevention Unit.

Alpine Substation	619-659-2600
Encinitas Station	760-966-3500
Fallbrook Substation	760-451-3100
Imperial Beach Station	619-498-2400
Lemon Grove Station	619-337-2000
Poway Station	858-513-2800
Ramona Substation	760-789-9157
San Marcos Station	760-510-5200
Santee Station	619-956-4000
Vista Station	760-940-4551