

## HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF WHEN AND WHY YOU SHOULD CALL YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT ABOUT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

To report a crime: Dispatch  
Or Non-Emergencies, call  
**293-7000**

For an emergency, dial  
**9-1-1**

Before dialing 911 you must determine if a real emergency has occurred or is imminent and needs response by the police, fire department or paramedics right now.

### You will be asked:

- The location of the emergency. Be specific: “Northeast corner of Main and A”, not “somewhere on Main.”
- Type of emergency: A robbery in progress, a house fire, an unconscious person, a fist fight.
- Weapons involved: Guns, knives, bottles sticks, even a car. Weapons may be simulated.
- Who’s involved: Do you know them? How many? Give descriptions of each.
- Any obstacles that might hinder emergency units from responding: bars on a house, vicious dog, chemical spill, etc.
- Facts only, please: Don’t exaggerate; be factual and honest. Offer only what you are sure of. If you are unsure or don’t know, tell that to the operator.



## Suspicious Vehicles

- **Certain moving vehicles**, especially if slow moving and without lights, or if the course followed appears aimless or repetitive. This is suspicious in any location, but particularly in areas of schools, parks or playgrounds. Possible significance: Possible “casing” for places to rob or burglarize. Possible drug pusher or sex offender.
- **Certain parked, occupied vehicles** may contain one or more persons, especially significant if observed at an unusual hour. Possible significance: Possible lookout for a burglary or robbery in progress. True, even if occupants appear to be lovers.
- **Vehicles being loaded with valuables**: Suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or untended residence, even if the vehicle is a legitimate-looking commercial unit—possibly even bearing a sign identifying it as a repair vehicle, moving van, etc. Possible significance: Possible burglary or other theft in progress.
- **Abandoned vehicle**: Possible stolen car.
- **Vehicle containing weapons**: Almost always suspicious. Possible significance: Owner may engage in criminal activity.
- **Other unusual activity involving vehicles**: Persons attempting forcibly to enter a locked vehicle, especially at night or in a parking lot. Possible significance: Possible burglary, theft, or malicious mischief in progress.  
Persons removing mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle, especially at night in the street or a parking lot. Possible significance: Possible theft or malicious mischief in progress.

Persons being forced into vehicles, especially if juveniles or females. Possible significance: Possible kidnapping.

Objects thrown from a vehicle, especially while traveling at high speed. Possible significance: Possible disposal of contraband or a weapon.



## Suspicious Persons

- **Going door-to-door in residential area**: Especially suspicious if, after a few houses are visited, one or more of the subjects goes into a back or side yard. More suspicious if another remains in the front when this occurs. Possible significance: Possible “casing” for a house to burglarize; burglary in progress; soliciting violation; or trespass.
- **Waiting in front of a house or business**: Particularly suspicious if owners are absent, or—if it’s a business—the establishment is closed. Possible significance: Possible lookout for a burglary in progress inside.
- **Forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, vehicle, etc.**: Almost always suspicious. Possible significance: Possible burglary, theft, malicious mischief, or trespass in progress.
- **Non-resident going into back or side yard of house**: Almost always suspicious. Possible significance: Possible burglary or trespass in progress.
- **Person running** especially if something of value is being carried. Possible significance: possibly fleeing the scene of a crime.
- **Exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms**. Possible significance: Pos-

sibly injured, under the influence of drugs, or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.

- **Carrying property**: Suspicious, depending on the circumstances. For example, if at unusual hours or in an unusual place, and if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased. Possible significance: Subject may be leaving the scene of a robbery, burglary, or theft.
- **Much human traffic to and from a certain residence**: Not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours. Possible significance: Possible vice activities, or “fence” operation.



## Situations Involving Property

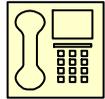
- **Property in homes, private garages, storage areas, etc.**: Suspicious if accumulations are large or otherwise unusual (such as several TV sets in a garage) and the items are in good condition, but not in use. Possible significance: Possible stolen property.
- **Property in vehicles**: Not suspicious unless the property is not normally found in vehicles—especially if observed at unusual hours, or if TV sets, electronics, or auto parts are involved. Possible significance: Possible stolen property.
- **Property carried by persons on foot**: Normally not suspicious unless at an unusual hour or in an unusual place. Especially questionable if the person is running. May be significant if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased. Possible significance: Possible stolen property.

- **Property being removed from or being placed into vehicles or buildings:** Not suspicious unless unusual hours or places are involved. For instance, from closed business or residences whose owners are known to be absent. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary or theft in progress.



## Other Unusual Situations

- **Continuous “repair” operations at a non-business location:** *Possible significance:* Possibly stolen property being stripped, repaired, or otherwise altered. Possible business license or zoning violation.
- **Open or broken doors or windows:** At closed business or residence whose owners are temporarily absent. *Possible significance:* Possible burglary in progress or scene of completed burglary.
- **Unusual noises, etc.:** Gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs—anything suggestive of foul play, danger, illegal activity.



## Call the police about all suspicious activity

Do not hesitate to call the police. It is important for the public to feel comfortable when calling the police. If you think you should call the police, then pick up the phone and call 293-7000 (non-emergency) or 911 for a life-threatening emergency or a crime-in-progress.

Don't assume that someone else has called the police. Don't worry about “bothering” the police and don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. It is better to act than to think about what could happen if you didn't act at all.

### Suspect Description

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Race \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Height \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_

Hair color \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Eyes \_\_\_\_\_

#### Clothing:

Coat \_\_\_\_\_ Pants/Dress \_\_\_\_\_

Shoes \_\_\_\_\_ Hat \_\_\_\_\_ Glasses? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Identifying Features:

Scars \_\_\_\_\_

Facial Hair \_\_\_\_\_

Tattoos \_\_\_\_\_

Speech \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Vehicle Description:

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

License \_\_\_\_\_

Damage or Marks \_\_\_\_\_

Direction of Travel \_\_\_\_\_

### Reporting Non-Emergencies

The dispatch communications center is busy at times and may ask that you hold on the line. Please be patient. When your call is answered, be prepared to give complete information about **who** it

happened to, **what** happened, **where** it happened, **when** or **how** long ago, and any weapons used. Give cross streets for locations and license plates for vehicle descriptions. It is also a good idea to update dispatch on information as situations change.

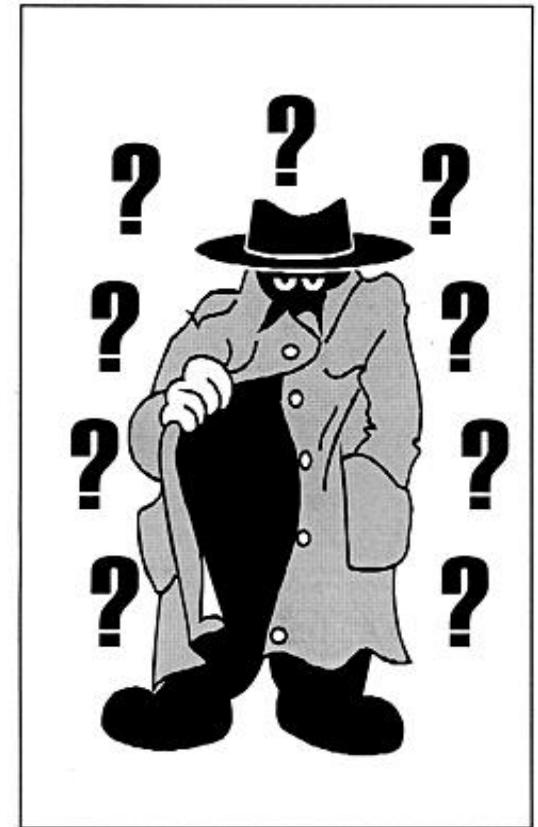
Please remember that just because you see the police in your neighborhood frequently, or you see a patrol car pass by, that the police know everything that goes on there. They depend on you to be the eyes and ears for them. You have important information that they don't always see or hear from a patrol car.



**Crime Prevention**  
**(510) 293-5051**

[www.haywardpd.net](http://www.haywardpd.net)

# WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?



## HAYWARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

300 West Winton Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94544-1137  
Phone: (510) 293-7272  
FAX: (510) 293-7183  
TDD: (510) 783-8884