

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

### THINGS TO WATCH FOR

- \* Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gas from a car should be reported.
- \* Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left displayed in the car.
- \* Persons entering or leaving a business place after hours could mean burglars.
- \* A sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, burglary, or vandalism.
- \* Persons loitering around schools, parks and secluded areas could be sex offenders.
- \* Persons loitering in the neighborhood who do not live there could be burglars.
- \* Anyone forcing entrance to, or tampering with a residence, business or vehicle should be reported.
- \* A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied, may be a burglar.
- \* A scream heard anywhere may mean robbery or assault.
- \* Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices could mean stolen property.

### SOME NOT SO OBVIOUS THINGS TO WATCH FOR

- \* **Someone Going Door-to-Door In Your Neighborhood:** Watch for awhile. If, after a few houses are visited, one or more of the persons tries a door to see if it is locked, looks into windows or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. Such action is even more suspicious if one person remains in the front when this occurs or if there is a car following a few houses away. Call your local law enforcement department or 911 immediately; do not wait for the person to leave.
- \* **One or More Juveniles Walking Casually Through The Neighborhood Looking into Automobiles, Backyards, Etc.**
- \* **A Person Running, Especially if Carrying Something of Value.**
- \* **Someone Carrying Property:** If it's at an unusual hour, or in an unusual place, or if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased.
- \* **A Person Exhibiting Unusual Mental or Physical Symptoms:** May be injured, under the influence of drugs or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.
- \* **Human Traffic to And From a Certain Residence:** Is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis; especially during late or unusual hours. It could possibly be the scene of vice activities or a fence operation.
- \* **Any Person Taking a Shortcut Through a Backyard:** May have just broken into your neighbor's home.
- \* **Any Vehicle Moving Slowly And Without Lights or Following a Course That Appears Aimless or Repetitive in Any Location:** But particularly so in areas of schools, parks and playgrounds. Occupants may be looking for places to rob or to burglarize, or they could be drug pushers or sex offenders.
- \* **Parked, Occupied Vehicles Containing One or More Persons:** If it is an unusual hour they could be lookouts for a burglary in progress, even if the occupants appear to be legitimate.
- \* **Vehicles Being Loaded With Valuables if Parked in Front of a Closed Business:** Or unattended residence—even if the vehicle is a legitimate looking commercial vehicle.

- \* **Apparent Business Transactions Conducted From a Vehicle:** Especially around schools or parks. If juveniles are involved, it could mean a possible drug sale.
- \* **Persons Being Forced Into Vehicles:** Especially if juveniles or females, may mean a kidnapping.
- \* **An Abandoned Vehicle Parked On Your Block (with missing tags):** May be a stolen car.
- \* **Continuous Repair Operations at Non- Business Locations:** Could mean stolen property is being stripped, repainted or otherwise altered.
- \* **Open or Broken Doors or Windows at a Closed Business or Residence:** If owners are absent, could mean a burglary in progress or already completed.
- \* **A Beam From a Flashlight in a Neighbor's Home:** Especially if they are away.
- \* **Persons Wearing or Carrying Bloody Clothing:** Could be a suspect or victim of a serious crime.
- \* **Persons Making a Quick Change of Vehicles:** May be attempting to elude the police or abandoning a stolen vehicle.

### **INFORMATION MOST OFTEN NEEDED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**What happened? When did it happen? Where did it happen? Was anyone hurt?**

**Description of Persons:** (Include clothing). When describing suspects, notice age, race, sex, height and weight. Compare your own weight and height with the suspects. Pick out some unique characteristics (scars, nose, jewelry, etc.) that will help you identify the suspect in the future if need be.

**Description of Vehicle:** License number, make, model, color, any noticeable damage and direction of travel.

REMEMBER: FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE DIAL 911 or the law enforcement department in your area.