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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substation</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Substation</td>
<td>619-659-2600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallbrook Substation</td>
<td>760-451-3100</td>
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<td>Imperial Beach Station</td>
<td>619-498-2400</td>
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<td>Lakeside Substation</td>
<td>619-938-1360</td>
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<td>Lemon Grove Station</td>
<td>619-337-2000</td>
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<td>North Coastal Station</td>
<td>760-966-3500</td>
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<td>Poway Station</td>
<td>858-513-2800</td>
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<td>4S Ranch Substation</td>
<td>858-521-5200</td>
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<td>Ramona Substation</td>
<td>760-789-9157</td>
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<td>Rancho San Diego Station</td>
<td>619-660-7090</td>
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<td>San Marcos Station</td>
<td>760-510-5200</td>
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<td>Santee Station</td>
<td>619-956-4000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley Center Substation</td>
<td>760-751-4400</td>
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<td>Vista Station</td>
<td>760-940-4551</td>
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