



Keeping Watch in Your Neighborhood

How do you determine what is suspicious activity in your neighborhood? According to the Bartow Florida Police Department, a suspicious activity is when a person's conduct or action does not fit the normal day-to-day activity of your neighborhood. If you feel that something is unusual or looks wrong, then it probably is.

The following list includes some, but not all, situations that may be considered suspicious:

- Someone looking into windows of houses or parked cars.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Abandoned trucks, vans, or cars.
- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- A person running from a home for no particular reason, especially at night.
- A vehicle frequently driving around the block slowing down and speeding up.
- A vehicle moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- Unusual noises such as breaking glass, gunshots, etc.

In the event that you witness a suspicious activity, call your local law enforcement agency. Be sure to describe as much detail of the situation as possible. Remember to give the dispatcher your name and address and describe the event: what happened, when, where, and who was involved. It's important that you be able to describe the suspect as best you can: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, scars, facial hair, etc. Look for specifics of the vehicle being driven by the suspect: color, make, model, year, license plate, stickers, dents, etc.

For information on joining or starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, visit www.usdoj.gov.

For More Information:

U.S. Department of Justice, www.usdoj.gov

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