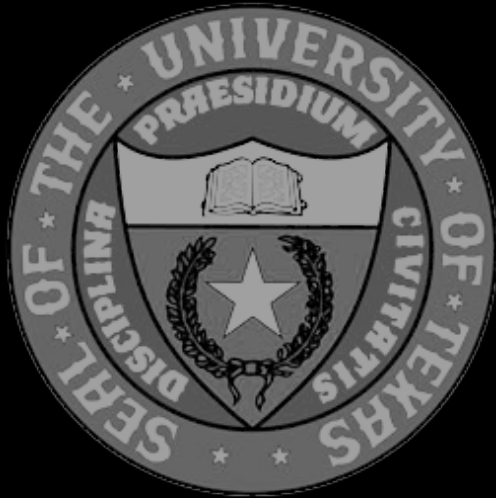


# When to Call the Police

Emergency (210) 458-4911

Non-Emergency (210) 458-4242



# What is Suspicious?

## ★ What is Suspicious? ★

Basically, anything that seems even slightly out of place for the area or during the time of day in which it occurs may mean criminal activity.

## Help the Police Help You

1

No police department can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. They are depending on you to call and tell them whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions.

2

Some people fail to call the police simply because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and be hesitant to call for fear of seeming like a "nosy neighbor." Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called.

3

Call the police immediately about all suspicious activity-and do it yourself. Don't worry about bothering them because this is what the police are for. Don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what could happen if you don't act.

## People You Might See and What Their Actions Might Mean

- Someone is going door to door in your neighborhood or complex. Watch for a while. If, after a few houses/apartments are visited, one or more persons tries a door to see if it is locked, 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.
- Someone waiting in front of a house, apartment or business becomes suspicious if the owners/residents are absent, or if it is a business, the business is closed. This might be a lookout for a burglary in progress inside.
- Anyone forcing entrance into or tampering with a residence, business, or vehicle is suspicious anytime, anywhere.
- People not wearing UTSA uniform or nametag carrying out computer equipment from UTSA buildings could be theft of student or state property.
- A person running, especially if carrying something of value, could be leaving the scene of a crime.
- Carrying property could be suspicious too, if it's at an unusual hour or in an unusual place, and 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.
- Much 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."

## Some Obvious Things to Watch for and Report

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house/apartment when it is unoccupied may be a burglar.
- A scream heard anywhere may mean robbery or a sexual assault.
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices could mean stolen merchandise.
- Anyone removing accessories, license plates, or gasoline 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.
- The sound of breaking glass or other loud noises could mean an accident, home burglary or criminal mischief.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, or in the neighborhood could be sex offenders.
- Persons around the neighborhood who do not live there could be burglars.
- On campus, magazine subscription scammers are common. Don't give your personal and banking information to strangers.

## Information Needed by Police

- What happened?
- When?
- Where?
- Is anyone injured?
- Vehicle license number.
- Direction of flight.
- Description of persons (including clothing)
- When describing suspects, notice age, race, sex, height, and weight. Compare your weight and height with suspects. Pick out some unique characteristics, which will help you identify the suspect in the future if, need be.

\*While some if not all of the suspicious situations described could have innocent explanations, your police department would rather investigate a crime prone situation than be called when it is too late. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a criminal act.

## Some Not so Obvious Things to Watch for and Unusual Situations You Should Report

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood or on campus is a criminal by any means. There are many perfectly legitimate door-to-door salesmen, repairmen, and servicemen moving around our neighborhoods all the time. But criminals do take advantage of this by assuming the guise of the legitimate business representatives. After all, if a criminal looked like a criminal, no one would have any trouble spotting him.

- Continuous “repair” operations at a non-business location could mean stolen property begin stripped, repainted, and otherwise altered.
- Open or broken doors and windows at a closed business or residence whose owners are absent could mean a burglary in progress or already completed.
- Unusual noises such as gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs, anything suggestive or foul play, danger, or illegal activity should be reported.
- People who appear to be lost and wondering around hallways and offices of campus buildings and do not appear to have legitimate business should be reported to the UTSA police department.

## Things to Watch for Involving Vehicles

- Any vehicle moving slowly and without lights, or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive is suspicious in any location but particularly so in areas of schools, parks, and playgrounds. Occupants may be “casing” for places to rob or burglarize, or could possibly be drug pushers or sex offender.
- Parked, occupied vehicles containing one or more persons are especially significant if observed at an unusual hour. They could be lookouts for a burglary in progress, even if the occupants appear to be lovers.
- Vehicles being loaded with valuables are suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or unattended residence, even if the vehicle is a legitimate looking commercial unit. More and more professional thieves are taking the time to “customize” their vehicles with special signs in order to move more freely without suspicion.
- Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools or parks, could mean possible drug sales.
- Persons being forced into vehicles, especially juveniles or females, may mean a possible kidnapping.
- The abandoned vehicle parked on your block may be a stolen car.
- People looking into multiple vehicles as if looking for items to steal.