

Suspicious Behavior to Keep an Eye On In Your Neighborhood



Most people know that they should be aware of suspicious activity in their neighborhood, but they don't exactly know what constitutes suspicious activity. It won't always be as obvious as a van with tinted windows circling your block, or a group of strangers wearing face masks. Knowing what to look for, though, can help you actively prevent a crime or even serial crime.

Here are just some of the suspicious activities you should keep an eye out for in your neighborhood. If you see any of what's listed below, call your local police department as soon as you can.

Rapid Exit

If you notice someone loitering around your street, pay attention to how they behave if someone approaches them. If they seem to dart off the moment someone approaches, or quickly change the direction they're walking to avoid the person, that is considered suspicious. They may not want someone to see them close up or ask them any questions.

Out-of-Place Clothing

There is really no reason for someone to wear a giant coat on a hot summer day, or for someone to wear sunglasses, a hood and a hat at the same time. If it looks like someone is purposefully trying to hide their identity, or wearing something that could be packed with stolen items, keep an eye on them.

Acting Jittery

Sometimes people just stand outside, hoping to get some fresh air. It's odd, however, if they look incredibly nervous. If you see someone staying in one place for an extended period, looking around constantly, jumping at a sound, or regularly looking over their shoulder, that is suspicious, and they could be observing the street to find a good time to commit a crime.

An Abandoned Parcel

If you see an abandoned parcel like a suitcase, a backpack, a large purse or a briefcase, and none of your neighbors recognize it, call the police. This could be involved in something unlawful, like drugs, stolen items, or a home-made explosive.

Walking or Driving Without a Destination

If you notice someone walking or driving around your neighborhood quite slowly, seemingly without a destination, keep an eye on them. Looking for parking or waiting to pick up a friend should not take hours, and wouldn't send someone driving around an entire neighborhood. This individual may be trying to learn about the residents' habits, identify vacant homes, or determine a good time to break into a property.

Knocking and Fleeing

If someone knocks on your door, but seems startled when you answer and says something about having the wrong address before fleeing, be on alert. They might pretend to represent a business, but if they take off quickly when you make it clear you are not interested, this is suspicious. This could be a burglar knocking on doors, trying to determine who is home.

When you're going about your daily activities, it can be hard to take note of subtly suspicious activity. But criminals depend on your distracted state of mind to infiltrate your neighborhood, so always keep your eyes peeled for strange or unusual activity.

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