

- Any vehicles moving slowly and without lights, or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive in any location. Particularly in school, park, or playground areas. Occupants may be looking for places to rob or burglarize, or they could be drug dealers or sex offenders.

- Parked, occupied vehicles containing one or more people. If it's an unusual hour, they could be possible look-outs for a burglary in-progress, even if the occupants appear to be legitimate.

Crime Awareness Tips

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied may be a burglar.
- Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left in the car.
- The sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, burglary, or vandalism.
- People loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas, or in the neighborhood could be sex offenders.



For information about the Renton Police Department's Block Watch Program, call the Crime Prevention Unit at 430-7521 or 430-7520.

Renton Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit

Kevin Milosevich
Chief of Police



What is Considered Suspicious Activity?



What is "Suspicious"?

Your local police department cannot function effectively without the assistance of concerned, responsible citizens. They are depending on you to call and report suspicious people and activity.

The Information Most Often Needed:

What happened? When did it happen?
Where did it happen?

- **Description of Suspects:** When describing suspects, notice age, race, sex, height, and weight. Compare your own weight and height with the suspects. Pick out some characteristics (scars, nose, jewelry, etc.) that will help you to identify the suspect in the future, if needed. Include a description of clothing worn by the suspect(s).
- **Description of Vehicle:** License number, make, model, color, any noticeable damage, direction of travel, how many occupants.

Remember, for police assistance, call 911!

Obvious Things to Watch For:

Basically, anything that seems even slightly "out of place", or that is occurring at an unusual time of day could be criminal activity. Some of the most obvious things to watch for and report include:

- Vehicles being loaded with valuables if parked in front of a closed business or an unattended residence - even if the vehicle is a "legitimate" looking vehicle.
- Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle. Especially around schools or parks. If juveniles are involved, it could mean a possible drug sale.
- People being forced into vehicles. Especially if they are juveniles or females - it may mean a possible kidnapping.
- An abandoned vehicle parked on your street. This may be a stolen car.
- Open or broken doors or windows at a closed business or residence. If the owners are absent, this could mean a burglary in-progress or one that has already occurred.
- People making a quick change of vehicles. They may be attempting to elude police or they may be abandoning stolen vehicles.

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

Some Not So Obvious Things to Look For:

- Someone going door-to-door in your neighborhood. Watch a while. 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 911 immediately, do not wait for the people to leave!
- One or more juveniles walking casually through the neighborhood looking into backyards, cars, etc.
- Any person taking a short-cut through a backyard. They may have just broken into your neighbor's home.

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