

To move more freely without suspicion, more and more professional thieves are “customizing” their vehicles with special signs.

- ❑ “Business transactions” conducted from a vehicle...especially around schools or parks and if juveniles are involved...may mean drug sales.
- ❑ Persons being forced into vehicles...especially if juveniles or females...may mean kidnapping.
- ❑ The abandoned vehicle parked on your block may be a stolen car.

OTHER UNUSUAL SITUATIONS YOU SHOULD REPORT.

- ❑ Continuous “repair” operations at a non-business location may mean stolen property being stripped, repainted or otherwise altered.
- ❑ Open or broken doors or windows at a closed business or residence whose owners are absent may mean a burglary in progress or already completed.
- ❑ Unusual noises such as gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs...anything suggestive of foul play, danger or illegal activity...should be reported.

ASSIST YOUR POLICE!

As you read this pamphlet a police officer is responding to a call to investigate an incident

Many crimes occur literally “under the noses” of citizens who just didn’t notice anything suspicious.

The direct reduction of crime in our community is partly your responsibility!

Help reduce the possibility of your becoming a crime statistic!

Opportunities to commit crime must be reduced. Your police department needs your eyes and ears to help decrease these opportunities

Become aware. Become suspicious of possible criminal activity in your neighborhood.

Call us immediately when anything suspicious occurs!

Fairhaven Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
508-997-1344



FAIRHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUSPICIOUS?



You Bet!

When and why you should call your Police Department



HELP THE POLICE TO HELP YOU.

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

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 a “nosey neighbor” or a “crank.” Still others may take it for granted that someone else has already called.

Call police immediately about all suspicious activity and do it yourself...anonymously if you wish. Don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what might happen if you didn't!

THE POLICE WILL NEED THIS INFORMATION:

- ❑ What happened?
When?
Where?
Is anyone injured?
Vehicle license number
Vehicle description
Direction of flight
Description of persons (including clothing)

When describing suspect(s) notice age, race, sex, height, & weight. Compare your weight & height with theirs. Pick out some unique characteristics, which will help you identify the suspect(s) in the future.

WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?

Anything that seems even slightly “out of place” for the area or during the time of day in which it occurs.

The most obvious things to watch for and report include:

- ❑ The stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied may be a burglar.
- ❑ The scream heard anywhere may mean robbery or rape.
- ❑ Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices can mean stolen property.
- ❑ Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gasoline from a car should be reported.
- ❑ Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking to steal or for valuables displayed in the car.
- ❑ Persons entering or leaving a business place after hours may be burglars.
- ❑ The sound of breaking glass or other loud explosive noises could mean an accident, housebreaking or vandalizing.
- ❑ Persons loitering around schools, parks secluded areas or in the neighborhood may be sex offenders.
- ❑ Persons around the neighborhood who do not live there could be burglars.

SOME NOT SO OBVIOUS THINGS TO WATCH FOR:

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal. There are many legitimate door-to-door salesmen, repairmen & servicemen moving around your neighborhood all the time. But criminals do take advantage of this by assuming the identity of legitimate business representatives. After all, if a criminal looked like a criminal, no one would have any trouble spotting one! Here are some situations involving people you might see & what their actions might mean.

- ❑ Someone going door-to-door. Watch for a while. If, after a few houses are visited, someone tries a door to see if it is locked or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar.
- ❑ Anyone forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, business or vehicle.
- ❑ A person running...especially if carrying something of value...could be leaving the scene of a crime. (Unusual hour, place, property not wrapped as if it were just purchased).
- ❑ Person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms may be injured, under the influence of drugs or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.
- ❑ Vehicles being loaded with valuables are suspicious if parked in front of closed businesses or untended residences...

