

What Is Suspicious?

"Suspicious Persons" Defined:

Going door to door in residential area - Especially suspicious if, after few houses are visited, one or more of the subjects goes into a back or side yard. More suspicious if another remains in the front when this occurs.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: "Casing" for a house to burglarize, burglary in progress, soliciting violation, or a trespass.

Waiting in front of a house or business - Particularly suspicious if owners are absent, or, if it's a business, and the establishment is closed.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Lookout for a burglary in progress inside.

Forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, vehicle, etc. - Suspicious under almost any circumstances.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Burglary, theft, malicious mischief, or trespass in progress.

Non-resident going into back or side yard of house - Suspicious under almost any circumstances.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Possible burglary or trespass in progress.

Person running, as if from someone or scared - Especially if something of value is being carried.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Fleeing the scene of a crime or needing assistance.

Exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms - Do not approach these people. POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Possibly injured, under the influence of drugs, or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.

Carrying property - Suspicious depending upon the circumstances. For example, if at an unusual hour or in an unusual place, and if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Subject leaving the scene of a robbery, burglary, or theft.

Excessive human traffic to and from a certain residence - Not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours. POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Vice or narcotics activities, or a "fencing" operation.

"Suspicious Vehicles" Defined:

Certain moving vehicles - Especially if slow moving and without lights, or if the course followed appears aimless or repetitive. This is suspicious in any location, but particularly in the area of schools, parks, or playgrounds.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: "Casing" for places to rob or burglarize. Possible drug pusher or sex offender.

Certain parked, or occupied vehicles - May contain one or more persons, especially significant if observed at an unusual hour.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Lookout for a burglary or robbery in progress. True even if occupants appear to be lovers.

Vehicles being loaded with valuables - Suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or unattended residence, even if the vehicle is a legitimate looking commercial unit, possibly even bearing a sign identifying it as a repair vehicle, moving van, etc.

POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Burglary or other theft in progress

Abandoned vehicle - Usually seen on public streets or in commercial (areas) parking lots.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Possible stolen car.

Vehicle containing weapons - Suspicious under almost any circumstances.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Owner may engage in criminal activity.

Other unusual activity involving vehicles - Persons attempting to forcibly enter a locked vehicle, especially at night or in a parking lot.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Burglary, theft, or malicious mischief in progress.

Persons detaching mechanical parts or accessories from a vehicle - Suspicious especially at night in the street or in a parking lot.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Theft or malicious mischief in progress.

Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle - Suspicious especially if around schools or parks, and if juveniles or females.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Drug transactions, or kidnapping.

Objects thrown from a vehicle - Suspicious especially while traveling at high rate of speed.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Disposal of contraband, littering, throwing objects from a moving vehicle is a violation.

Property in vehicles - Not suspicious unless the property is not normally found in vehicles, especially if observed at unusual hours or if TV sets, stereos, un-mounted tape decks, or auto parts are involved.
POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE: Stolen property.