

### WHEN SHOULD I USE 9-1-1?

9-1-1 should be reserved for emergencies to keep the lines available. Here is a list of examples of times to use Emergency 9-1-1:

- ◆ a person's safety is in immediate peril
- ◆ a crime is in progress
- ◆ a fight is occurring with a gun, knife or other weapon
- ◆ serious injury needing immediate response
- ◆ armed robbery
- ◆ a traffic accident with injuries has occurred
- ◆ any threat where immediate response is required; when you cannot be placed on hold.

### WHEN SHOULD I USE THE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER?

The Sheriff's Office non-emergency dispatch number is (925) 646-2441. This number should be used to report incidents that have already occurred or when no immediate danger is present and suspects are long gone. Here is a list of common examples of when to call the non-emergency number:

- ◆ suspicious activity where suspects have vacated
- ◆ crime that has already occurred, but a Sheriff's Office report is needed
- ◆ vandalism or graffiti that has already occurred
- ◆ traffic accident with no injuries, or traffic hazard
- ◆ to contact a specific deputy

### WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

Some things that you are going to have to tell a dispatcher when you call either 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number are:

- ◆ location
- ◆ name
- ◆ nature of emergency/call
- ◆ if weapons are involved
- ◆ accurate description of suspect or vehicle
- ◆ direction of travel

Remember, never hang up until the dispatcher tells you to.

### CAN I REPORT ANONYMOUSLY?

Yes! When reporting a crime or suspicious activity, tell the dispatcher that you wish to remain anonymous, if you feel the need. Ask that the deputy not come to your door, but call you if they require further information.

## To Report Crime or Suspicious Activity, Please Call:

Emergency: **9-1-1**

Non-emergency: **(925) 646-2441**



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## RECOGNIZING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AND HOW TO REPORT IT



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

## SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES:



Vehicles can be considered suspicious if they are:

- ♦ slow moving with headlights turned off
- ♦ following a course that appears to be aimless or repetitive - especially if occurring around a school, park or playground
- ♦ parked cars containing one or more persons, especially at a late or unusual hour
- ♦ abandoned vehicles
- ♦ Vehicles containing weapons
- ♦ property in vehicles - especially suspicious when the property includes items not normally found in vehicles.

*What are the possible significances of these types of vehicles?*

The subject(s) may be:

- ♦ casing with the intention of committing a robbery or burglary
- ♦ involved in drug activity
- ♦ a sex offender

**Other types of suspicious activity involving vehicles can be:**

- ♦ subjects attempting to forcibly enter a locked car
- ♦ subjects detaching mechanical parts or accessories for a vehicle
- ♦ business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially if near a park or school and involving juveniles
- ♦ subjects being forced into vehicles
- ♦ objects thrown from vehicles, especially while traveling at high speeds.

*What are the possible significances of these types of activities?*

The subject(s) may be involved in:

- ♦ burglary, theft or malicious mischief
- ♦ drug sales
- ♦ business license violation
- ♦ kidnapping
- ♦ disposal of contraband
- ♦ garbage dumping

## SUSPICIOUS PERSONS:

People can be considered suspicious if they are:

- ♦ going door-to-door in residential areas - look for subjects checking to see if front doors are locked, especially when another subject remains near the street as a lookout
- ♦ non-residents going into back or side yard of a house
- ♦ waiting in front of a house or business - this can be especially suspicious if owners are absent or the building is closed
- ♦ forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, vehicle, etc.
- ♦ running from property
- ♦ carrying property - if someone is carrying valuable property or if it is at an unusual hour
- ♦ unfamiliar subjects to the neighborhood - or subjects that seem to have no purpose wandering about
- ♦ exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms



*What are the possible significances of these types of people?*

Subjects may be involved in:

- ♦ casing homes or businesses
- ♦ soliciting violations
- ♦ burglary, theft, vandalism, or trespassing
- ♦ fleeing the scene of a crime
- ♦ drug activity

## SUSPICIOUS SITUATIONS:

Some examples of Suspicious Situations include:

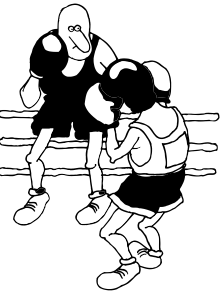
- ♦ continuous "Repair" operations at a non-business location
- ♦ property being removed from or placed into vehicles or buildings - suspicious when from homes in which the owners are known to be absent or from closed businesses
- ♦ open or broken doors or windows - at closed businesses or residences in which the owners are absent
- ♦ unusual noises - including gunshots, screaming, fighting, abnormally barking dogs, anything that suggests foul play, danger, illegal activity
- ♦ a large amount of human traffic to and from a certain residence
- ♦ accumulation of large amounts of valuable property in homes, private garages, storage areas, etc.



*What are the possible significances of these types of situations?*

They may involve:

- ♦ stolen property, possibly being stripped, repainted, or otherwise altered
- ♦ business license or zoning violations
- ♦ the scene of a burglary in progress or completed burglary
- ♦ assaults, fights, threats, etc.
- ♦ drug activity



**If it's suspicious, call the Sheriff! You may save a life or stop a criminal act!**