

# City of Portland

## Recognizing Suspicious & Criminal Activity

Suspicious activity can be defined as any behavior that causes alarm. Behavior is what makes someone's activities suspicious, not their appearance, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or housing status. These details will be important to relay to the police to describe the person(s) involved in suspicious activity, but shouldn't be used as the basis of determining whether something is suspicious.

Some suspicious activity may not be as obvious as others. Recognizing suspicious and criminal activity can be achieved through communication with your neighbors and community. When you know your neighbors, you become aware of who lives in the neighborhood, the cars and bikes neighbors drive, pedestrians and the routines of the area. Because of your familiarity, you can more readily identify suspicious activity, report it to the police and let your neighbors know what occurred. Some indications of suspicious activity may include:

- Slow moving vehicle with the lights off.
- Person detaching mechanical parts or accessories from vehicle.
- Person loading valuables into a vehicle that is parked by closed business or unoccupied residence.
- Someone attempting to forcibly enter a locked vehicle.
- Person being forced into vehicle.
- Loitering in front of house or business, especially at an unoccupied site.
- Person running away with items of value (e.g. TV, stereo, laptop).
- Sounds of a fight—screaming, yelling, sounds of furniture or glass breaking.
- Persons offering items for sale well below market price.
- Persons coming to your door with unusual requests, such as money for gas or a locksmith, or asking for donations for a charity without proper identification and materials.

Chloe Eudaly,  
Commissioner  
Suk Rhee, Director

City Hall  
1221 SW 4th Avenue,  
Room 110  
Portland, OR 97204  
503-823-9333  
[portlandoregon.gov/  
civic](http://portlandoregon.gov/civic)

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

Traducción o interpretación

Traducere sau Interpretare

Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch

Письмовий або усний переклад

الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية

翻译或传译

翻訳または通訳

ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ

Письменный или устный перевод

Turjumida ama Fasiraadda



# Calling 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 for a crime in progress, report a fire, or call for an ambulance. If you call 9-1-1 from a cell phone in Multnomah County, you will reach a recording that will direct you to press any key or say anything at the beep. Once you do this you will be connected to the next available call-taker. This filter is in place to minimize accidental calls to 9-1-1. When your call is answered, say your location and let the call-taker know you have an emergency. Remember that not all wireless 9-1-1 calls provide location information. If you aren't sure whether the situation is an emergency, call 9-1-1 and the call-taker will determine if you need emergency help. If possible and does not compromise safety, do not hang up the phone until the 9-1-1 call-taker says it is okay to hang up.

# Calling Non-Emergency

503.823.3333 is a ten-digit non-emergency number which you can dial 24 hours a day in Multnomah County for non-emergency help. Using the non-emergency number keeps 9-1-1 available for true emergencies. Some examples of times when you should call Non-Emergency are: your house or car was broken into yesterday; your runaway child has returned home; you need to add additional items to the burglary report you made last week.

*NOTE TO PARENTS: Make sure your child knows how to call 9-1-1. Have children practice giving your address. Post your address and map of your block near the telephone so that babysitters and others will be able to direct help to your house in the case of an emergency. More tips and resources online at [www.portlandoregon.gov/911/26658](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/911/26658).*

# Identify and Report

It is important to remember when identifying suspicious activity, that you are identifying the behavior as suspicious and not the persons appearance, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or housing status. While those details may be important to relay to the police to describe the person(s) involved in suspicious activity, they shouldn't be used as the basis of determining whether something is suspicious.

- Who** - suspect or victim(s) involved
- What** - type of problem
- When** - happening now or how long ago
- Where** - location help is needed, location of suspect(s), victim(s) and/or self
- Why** - reason for needing responders
- Weapons** - what kind and how many
- Warnings** - previous history/important information for responders to know

## When describing a suspect use the head-to-toe method:

If you cannot remember everything focus on key items that are difficult or unlikely to be changed (e.g. scars, tattoos and/or shoes). An example of head-to-toe method reporting can be: White male, about 25 years old, 6'2", 250lbs, brown curly hair, green eyes, red glasses, mustache, large tattoo on right side of neck, green puffy coat, white t-shirt, black jeans, white shoes with a red stripe.

## When describing a vehicle report using CYMBOLS:

Color, Year, Make, Body style, Other marks/damage, License, State



The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

Traducción o interpretación	Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch	翻译或传译	Письменный или устный перевод
Traducere sau Interpretare	Письмовий або усний переклад	翻訳または通訳	
Turjumida ama Fasiraadda	الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفوية	ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ	☎ 503-823-4000

# Suspect Identification Chart

Age, gender, race, weight, shape & height

Eye color

Glasses color and style

Beard, moustache, sideburns, goatee

shirt, tie-color and type

Jewelry-watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, belts

Hair color, length, style

Hat color and type

Skin-color, scars, tattoos, birthmarks, moles, piercings

Weapon type

Jacket, coat, vest, sweatshirt

Any bags, backpacks, purses?

Pants, skirt, shorts

Shoes-color, size, type. Gait

**What is unique about this individual?**  
**The best identifiers are the ones that are unique to the suspect and can't easily be changed such as scars, tattoos and facial features.**

**Notes**


# Vehicle Identification Chart

Is the suspect walking or driving a car, motorcycle or bicycle? Take note of:

Body Style i.e. 4 door-Sedan, Hatchback, SUV

Color of car

Make, model and year of the car

License Plate # and state

Unique characteristics such as a bumperstickers, hubcaps or dents

Direction the vehicle or person is headed and where last seen

**Notes**




The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

Traducción o interpretación	Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch	翻译或传译	Письменный или устный перевод
Traducere sau Interpretare	Письмовий або усний переклад	翻訳または通訳	
Turjumida ama Fasiraadda	الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية	ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ	☎ 503-823-4000

# Reporting Toolkit

Is it an immediate or life-threatening emergency?

**YES**

Dial 911 - Be prepared to provide information (i.e. location, suspect details, involved persons). Do not hang up until instructed to do so.

**NO**

Are you calling to report a crime or suspicious activity?

**YES**

Does the incident involve any of the following:

- Known suspect(s)
- Stolen vehicles
- Domestic violence
- Vehicular accidents
- Firearms
- Hit and runs
- RX Medication
- Require police presence

**NO**

**NO**

**YES**

Report online:  
[portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/](http://portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/)

Call Portland Non-Emergency  
at (503) 823-3333.

Are you reporting livability issues and violations (e.g. campsites, potholes, illegal/abandoned vehicles)?

**YES**

**NO**

Go to [pdxreporter.org](http://pdxreporter.org) and file a report (you will need a [portlandoregon.gov](http://portlandoregon.gov) account to login).

Do you need help and/or training for your business, neighborhood or residence, but don't know where to start?

**YES**

To get more training and connect with your Crime Prevention Team go online to:  
[portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp](http://portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp)

Your Crime Prevention Team's mission is to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime. You can also find online resources and training tools on the Office of Community & Civic Life, Crime Prevention Program website [portlandoregon.gov/civic/cpadvice](http://portlandoregon.gov/civic/cpadvice).



The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

Traducción o interpretación	Chuyển Ngữ hoặc Phiên Dịch	翻译或传译	Письменный или устный перевод
Traducere sau Interpretare	Письмовий або усний переклад	翻訳または通訳	
Turjumida ama Fasiraadda	الترجمة التحريرية أو الشفهية	ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ	☎ 503-823-4000