

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR



FIRST PRINCIPLE

norfolk.police.uk/firstprinciple
suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple

Top Tips

Be quick and accurate when you report

Make yourself aware of the things to report relating to:

- *Vehicles*
- *People*
- *Locations*

PREVENT CRIME

PROTECT COMMUNITIES



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You



SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY



As the additional 'eyes and ears' within the community, you can help to reduce crime, improve safety and increase the quality of life by knowing what to report and how to report it.

Don't be shy – your job is simply to report. The police will take your call seriously and check out the situation.

What you see and report may be invaluable, may prevent crime and save lives.

What is 'suspicious activity'?

Suspicious activities can refer to incidents, events, individuals or circumstances that seem unusual or out of place. Some common examples of suspicious activities include:



- A stranger loitering in your neighbourhood or a vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly.
- Someone peering into cars or windows.
- High volume of traffic going to and coming from a home on a daily basis.
- Someone loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas.
- Strange odours coming from a house or building.
- Open or broken doors and windows at a closed business or unoccupied residence.
- Someone tampering with electrical, gas or sewer systems without an identifiable company vehicle or uniform.
- Sounds of breaking glass, gunshots, screaming or fighting
- Strangers removing license plates or loading valuables into vehicles from a residence even if the moving truck looks legitimate.

Remember – A quick and accurate description of events, vehicles, and persons can make all the difference in apprehending a potential criminal. Any type of activity or circumstance that seems unusual should be reported.

There are four general categories to consider when determining what to report:

- Suspicious activities, people and vehicles
- Illegal activities
- Unusual events or incidents
- Dangerous situations

By reporting these types of suspicious activities, you can help the police make communities safer and more secure.

Reporting suspicious persons



Provide as much detail as possible.

Start with the basics and get more specific. One reliable method to consistently make good suspect descriptions is to begin at the head and work your way down.

For example: *"He was a white male with blonde hair. He was wearing a brown shirt, blue jeans and trainers."* or *"She was a black female about twenty years old, short hair, thin build and wearing a red cotton dress and sandals."*

Here is a list of items you can describe when providing a suspect description:

- Gender
- Race – white, black, Asian or other
- Age
- Height and build
- Hair colour and style
- Complexion – skin tone, imperfections
- Speech – accent, slurred, vulgar
- Scars – tattoos, facial hair, glasses
- General appearance – dirty, well-groomed
- Clothing: colour, style, shoes, jewellery
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Reporting suspicious vehicles

Provide as much information as possible about the vehicle, its occupants, the registration number or any identifying marks or characteristics, its activities and direction of travel. If you have a paper and pen or pencil handy, write down the information so you can read it to the police.



- Make – (Ford, Vauxhall, Honda etc.)
- Model – (Escort, Insignia etc.)
- Year and colour
- Registration number
- Stickers, damage or dents, lettering
- Direction of travel
- Occupants
- Is there a sunroof or a roof rack?

Reporting locations

- Provide as much information as possible. An exact location and specific address is always best if possible.
- Provide nearby roads and junctions.
- In rural areas, provide county road numbers or landmarks that can be recognized. Describe the location with as much detail as possible.

First Principle: Related links

Check out all of our Crime Prevention information using the following links or by using the QR code to take you to the First Principle Pages Alternatively go to our website at <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/> and look in the 1st Principle A-Z of Crime Prevention.

Allotment Security
Anti-Social Behaviour
ATM Security
Beach Hut Security
Boat Security
Building Site Security
Business Security
Caravan Security
Caravan Storage
Card Security
Catalytic Converters
Church Security
Cold Callers
Commercial CCTV
Counterfeit Banknotes
County Lines Advice
for Landlords
Cyber Crime
Cycle Security
Dangerous Dogs
Dog Fouling
Dog Theft
Domestic CCTV
Domestic Violence
Farm Security
Fraud Prevention
Grooming
Hate Crime

Heating Oil
Home Improvements
Home Security
Home Security for
Tenants
Horses and Stables
Keyless Vehicles
Key Safe Security
Lock Snapping
Mopeds and Scooters
Motorcycle Security
Neighbour Disputes
Occupiers Liability
Personal Security
Power Tool Security
Products Brochure
Rural Crime
Security Alarms
Sheds and Garages
Social Media
Social Media for
Parents
Suspicious Behaviour
Shoplifting
Taxi Driver Safety
Vehicle Security
Windows and Doors



Other Links you might find helpful

Ask the Police
Secured by Design
Sold Secure

Crimestoppers
0800 555 111

Victim Care
0300 303 3705