



# APPLE VALLEY POLICE

## Reporting Suspicious/Criminal Activity

Keeping our community safe is everyone's responsibility. We believe an informed neighborhood is a safer neighborhood. The members of your police department want to make you aware of the following information.

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### YOUR LOCAL POLICE RELY ON CITIZENS REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

### WHEN YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS/CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN PROGRESS CALL 9-1-1!

#### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU MAKE A REPORT

The information you provide lets the police know there is a problem so police can begin to investigate. Investigations include looking for suspects, speaking with witnesses and collecting evidence. Timely reporting is important because it allows police to have the best opportunity to apprehend suspects and collect relevant evidence. Without timely reporting, much crime goes unsolved, but with timely reporting the success rate increases. Often when citizens report crimes or suspicious activity they may not see a noticeable presence or increase of police activity, but this does not mean that the police department is not working hard to solve reported crime.

#### WHAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO KNOW

- The location/address where the suspicious activity is taking place
- The name(s) and/or descriptions of the persons involved in the criminal activity
- Physical description
- Clothing description
- Vehicle description
- License plate information
- Where is the activity taking place? Home, business, street, parking lot, etc.
- The time of day and day(s) of week when the activity is occurring

#### HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS/CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- Call 9-1-1 to report all suspicious/criminal activity, even if it is not in progress.
- Do not assume the police already know about the activity or that another neighbor has already reported the activity. Call when you see the activity. We would rather receive multiple reports than no reports.
- If suspicious activity keeps occurring, keep reporting the activity.
- It is best to identify yourself when reporting suspicious activity. If an officer has questions about the activity, they may need to talk to the reporting person. Police may not be able to follow-up on anonymously reported activity.
- If you want to know what action the police took on your call, tell the 9-1-1 dispatcher you would like a call back from the responding officer. The officer will call back to let you know the outcome.

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APPLE VALLEY POLICE  
*Neighborhood Collaboration Project*

VISION  
A clean, attractive and safe community, now and in the future.

MISSION  
To be a relational and educational presence in our community and immediately address crime and quality of life issues at their root.

## The AVPD Relies on Citizens Reporting Suspicious Activity

Officers typically hear that people hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious activity for varying reasons – they don't want to bother the police, they aren't sure what they saw, they don't have time to wait for an officer to respond, they think 911 is just for emergencies, they don't want to get involved... The list goes on and on. Timely reporting is important because it allows police the best opportunity to apprehend suspects and collect relevant evidence. *When you see criminal activity, call 911 to report it right away.*

What the police department needs to know when reporting suspicious activity:

- The location/address where the suspicious activity is taking place
- Descriptions of the persons involved including physical description, clothing description, vehicle description including license plate
- Where is the activity taking place? Home, business, street, parking lot, etc.

How to report suspicious activity:

- Call 9-1-1 to report all suspicious/criminal activity. ALL CALLS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE GO THROUGH 911
- Do not assume the police already know about the activity or that another neighbor has already reported the activity. Call when you see the activity. We would rather receive multiple reports than no reports.
- If suspicious activity keeps occurring, keep reporting the activity.
- It is best to identify yourself when reporting suspicious activity. If an officer has questions about the activity, he/she may need to talk to the reporting person. Police may not be able to follow-up on anonymously reported activity.
- If you want to know what action the police took on your call, tell the 9-1-1 dispatcher you would like a call back from the responding officer. The officer will call back to let you know the outcome.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the Apple Valley Police Department has also instituted an effective way for people to report incidents that are not in progress via an [E-Report](#). This reporting system is appropriate for reporting a crime after the fact like overnight thefts/vandalism discovered the following morning and incidents officers can follow up on with a phone call like animal complaints, civil matters, parking complaints, etc. Remember, for any incident in progress, always call 911 so an officer can respond.

Pam Walter  
Crime Prevention Specialist, Apple Valley Police Department

