



| Police

WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?



WHEN DO I CALL THE POLICE?

What is suspicious?

Know your BACs BEHAVIOR, ACTIVITY & CIRCUMSTANCES

People are NOT suspicious. But Behavior, Activity, and Circumstances — **B-A-C** — can be.

BEHAVIOR: Is the conduct of this person unusual? Is it part of the day-to-day activity of your neighborhood?

ACTIVITY: Is there an indication that something is wrong?

CIRCUMSTANCES: Does it seem like a criminal act has occurred or is likely?

If the observable **B-A-C** of the situation makes you think you should call the police, **make the call.**

Examples of Suspicious

Behaviors, Activities, and Circumstances:

- ▶ Someone loitering on a neighbor's property or going to or coming from the side or rear of the residence
- ▶ Looking into windows, mailboxes or vehicles
- ▶ Running in a manner not consistent with exercise
- ▶ Hiding after being noticed
- ▶ Glass breaking or the sound of a door being forced
- ▶ Vehicle repeatedly driving past, pulling up to multiple houses or backing into a neighbor's driveway

If you witness a crime, observe what you believe to be criminal activity, or for any type of emergency, **call 911.**



YOUR ASSISTANCE IS CRITICAL
No police department can function effectively without the assistance of community members.



When do I call police?

Call the non-emergency number, **404-373-6551**, to report something that you do not feel constitutes an emergency.

- ▶ If something seems out of the norm, and **you can articulate or explain why**, call the police.
- ▶ If the B-A-C of a situation catches your attention and, upon further observation, your suspicion increases, call the police.

Once you decide . . .

- ▶ Call immediately, so police have a better chance of locating the person or vehicle in question.
- ▶ Explain what you saw and why you're suspicious.
- ▶ Provide a detailed description of the person(s): age range, perceived gender and race, skin complexion, hair color and style, estimated height and weight, physical build, scars or tattoos, and as much detail about the clothing, shoes, and accessories as possible.
- ▶ Tell the communications officer where you last saw the suspicious person or vehicle, and his/her direction of travel.

Why?

- ▶ Responding officers can more accurately identify the person you are calling about
- ▶ Gives officers the reasonable suspicion needed to stop and investigate a person or situation
- ▶ Reduces the likelihood that officers will stop the wrong person (or fail to stop the right one)

STAY SAFE

and help prevent crime

- ▶ Be aware of what is going on around you.
- ▶ Trust your instincts and act if a situation does not feel right.
- ▶ Lock the doors and windows of your home and your vehicles.
- ▶ Secure your valuables out of sight.
- ▶ Make your home appear occupied, even when you are away.
- ▶ Use lighting around your home and trim overgrown foliage to reduce potential hiding places.
- ▶ Submit an "Out of Town House Check" through the city's SeeClickFix app, and Decatur officers will periodically check on your home.
- ▶ Avoid having packages delivered to your home while you're away — have them delivered to your office instead.
- ▶ Get to know your neighbors so that you can look out for each other in a responsible way.

Call 911

in an emergency, or
if you believe you are
witnessing any crime.



DECATUR POLICE

Non-Emergency Number

404-373-6551

Use this number to report something that you do not feel constitutes an emergency. These calls are also answered in the 911 Center.



Police

420 West Trinity Place
Decatur, GA 30030
Open 24 Hours
404-373-6551