

Kingston Chase Neighborhood Watch Frequently Asked Questions



When Should I Call the Police?

Call the police whenever you observe suspicious events, even if you are not the only person observing them. Never think someone else will do what you should. The police would rather get numerous calls on the same event than none at all.

Often citizens fail to call the police because they are not sure if what they see is suspicious. If you are in doubt, call the police immediately. Don't wait to talk it over with friends or neighbors. Valuable police response time is lost this way.

What is Suspicious?

- A stranger enters your neighbor's home while your neighbor is away or someone crosses your neighbor's yard with no apparent lawful purpose.
- Someone tries to open a neighbor's door.
- A moving truck or van pulls up to a neighbor's home while they are away.
- Someone is carrying property such as television sets, radios, stereos, etc., at an unusually late hour or in an unusual place, especially if it does not appear that the property is newly purchased.
- The sound of shattering glass could signal a possible burglary, vandalism, or larceny in progress.
- Anyone peering into vehicles while walking down a street or someone removing license plates, gasoline or parts from a car.
- Someone attempting to enter a car using a coat hanger or other device. Never assume that it is the owner who has locked the keys in the car. Be suspicious of anyone tampering with the hood or trunk of a car.
- An improperly parked car, an abandoned vehicle, or someone leaving one car and driving away in another. These may be signs of a stolen vehicle.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle could be the victim of a possible abduction.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, isolated areas, or in the neighborhood. Loiterers could be possible sex offenders or burglars.
- Anyone on school, church, or cemetery property after dark and not taking part in an approved activity.
- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle and often involving juveniles. A steady flow of strangers to and from a particular house on a regular basis at unusual times or late hours. These can indicate drug sales or a fencing operation.
- Offers of goods or repair work at unusually low prices could indicate stolen property or some kind of fraud.
- Remember, burglaries often occur at times when they should be most obvious – in broad daylight, in full view of observers, with no effort at subterfuge.

Should I call 911 or the Non-Emergency Number?

911 – Use the police, fire and rescue emergency number for crimes in progress and events which are life-threatening or immediately damaging to property.

Non-emergency number (703-691-2131) – Call to report crimes that have already occurred, when the suspect is no longer in the area, or to advise police of suspicious activity. The non-emergency phone number is open 24 hours and used for fire, police and rescue non-emergency reports. At times, contingent upon call volume, you may be on hold for a while. Please continue to hold or you may make a report online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/CRS/CRSDiscl.htm>. ***If you request that a police officer be dispatched to your home, the operator has to dispatch an officer. If a phone operator is uncooperative, request the operator's name and report this information to rescapt@co.fairfax.va.us.***

What Information Does the Police Need?

You will be asked for your name, address and phone number. This information is requested in case additional contact with you is needed; however, you do not have to provide this information if you do not want to. Any information provided to the police is confidential. If you do not want personal contact with the responding officer, say so. The most important information needed by the police is:

What happened?

When did this happen?

Where did this occur? The exact address, intersecting roads, or common places such as name of shopping centers, schools, etc.

Is anyone hurt?

License plate numbers and vehicle descriptions.

Direction of travel.

Description(s) of suspect(s).

Are weapons involved?

I've called the Police, now what?

Report the observation/incident to Neighborhood Watch, Tina Sullivan, at 703-478-6631 or via e-mail at kchoanw@cox.net.

What can I do if I see a car speeding in the neighborhood? Or children not secured in a car with a seat belt?

Report the license plate number, make/color of the car, location of the incident, etc., online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/CRS/CRSDiscl.htm> under the "Aggressive Driving" link. Fairfax County will send a letter to the owner of record letting them know their car was observed operating in an unsafe manner. This can alert parents to the unsafe driving behavior of their teenage children as well as making adults aware of their driving behavior.

What can I do if a solicitor comes to my home? (Kingston Chase is a non-soliciting neighborhood.)

All Fairfax County approved solicitors are issued an ID with Fairfax County Consumer Services on the ID. You can do the following to report solicitors:

- Ask for their I.D. If you are uncomfortable asking for an I.D., ask them for a business card and/or flyer regarding their services for future reference.
- Call the Fairfax County Police Department non-emergency number (703) 691-2131 and provide them with the information on the business card/flyer. Fairfax County can check their database to determine if a solicitor has been approved. If the solicitor has not been approved, fines may be enforced for soliciting without a valid license.

As always, follow up and report the information to Tina Sullivan, Neighborhood Watch, at 703-478-6631 or kchoanw@cox.net.

Do you know you can contact Fairfax County Police for a free home security inspection?

Call Officer Robyn Jones at 703-478-0799 or restoncpo@fairfaxcounty.gov. A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police Officer or auxiliary officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed.