How to Describe or Report Suspicious Behavior Using iWATCH

Person
» Sex
» Race
» Height
» Weight
» Build (medium, heavy)
» Hair (color, length, include facial hair)
» Complexion (light, dark, olive)
» Peculiarities (scars, tattoos, missing limbs)
» Clothing (from head to toe, style, etc.)
» Weapons (if any)
» Method of transportation (direction, vehicle, etc.)

Vehicle
» License plate and state
» Year, make, model and color
» Body type (2-door, 4-door, van, SUV)
» Number of passengers
» Damage or anything unusual (logos, etc.)

Important Places to Watch
» Government buildings
» Religious facilities
» Amusement parks
» Sports and entertainment venues
» High-rise buildings
» Mass-gathering locations and special events (parades, fairs, street festivals, etc.)
» Schools
» Hotels
» Theaters
» Shopping malls
» Bridges
» Public transportation such as Metrorail and Metrobus, Amtrak, VRE, and MARC

Get Involved!
No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia’s community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District 
Main: (202) 698-0555 ……. TTY: 727-8506
Substation: ……. (202) 698-0068 ……. TTY: 543-2352

2nd District 
Main: (202) 715-7300 ……. TTY: 364-3961

3rd District 
Main: (202) 673-6815 ……. TTY: 518-0008
Substation: ……. (202) 576-8222 ……. TTY: 576-9640

4th District 
Main: (202) 715-7400 ……. TTY: 722-1791

5th District 
Main: (202) 698-0150 ……. TTY: 727-5437

6th District 
Main: (202) 698-0880 ……. TTY: 398-5397
Substation: ……. (202) 698-2088 ……. TTY: 281-3945

7th District 
Main: (202) 698-1500 ……. TTY: 889-3574

Know Something About a Crime? Don’t Keep It a Secret
If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (202) 727-9099 (CRIME) or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see www.mpdc.dc.gov/tipline.

Have information for police? Share a tip.

Using the iWATCH Online Reporting Tool
Do Your Part to Help Protect Our Nation’s Capital from Terrorism

Government of the District of Columbia
Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

August 2011
You can help prevent terrorism in our backyard by paying attention and speaking up.
The Washington region is a special place, one that we are privileged to call home. Now, citizens can help protect our home from those who would do harm by calling attention to potential threats to our community.

It is usually an individual business or service organization that will be the first to notice something out of the ordinary. When that happens, it is critical that these suspicions be immediately passed on to law enforcement, so that the information can be examined, evaluated and, if necessary, acted upon. The key to preventing terrorist incidents in our nation’s capital is cooperation between law enforcement and the community. It is your awareness reported to police that can help predict and prevent attacks before they happen.

What is Suspicious Behavior?

Each of us might think of different things when it comes to what appears suspicious. Here are some unusual behaviors that could be indicators of terrorist planning.

» Surveillance. Are you aware of anyone recording or monitoring activities, taking notes, using cameras, maps, binoculars, etc., in your neighborhood?

» Deploying Assets. Have you observed abandoned vehicles, stockpiling of suspicious materials or trash, or persons loitering in your neighborhood? Are there chemical smells or other unusual things that you've noticed or bother you?

» Suspicious Persons/Questioning. Has anyone attempted to gain unusual information in person, by phone, mail, or email regarding your business or a facility nearby? Has a stranger asked you questions about security or building access procedures? Has anyone asked you about building blueprints, security plans, VIP travel schedules or other privileged information?

» Acquiring Supplies. Are you aware of anyone trying to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, or other dangerous materials that could be used in a terrorist act? Have you seen someone purchasing uniforms — such as law enforcement attire, badges, or tools — or other supplies without the proper credentials?

These are all examples of ways that terrorists might prepare for and plan an attack on a building, key piece of infrastructure, or other potential target. If you notice anything that seems out of the ordinary, please use the new iWATCH public reporting tool to make a report. It's simple, free, and easy to use.

Using iWATCH to Make a Report

The iWATCH suspicious activity reporting tool enables users to provide detailed information about suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate possible criminal or terrorist activity.

When a user logs in to www.iwatchdc.org, they are first presented with a Welcome screen (pictured at left). By clicking on “Make a Report,” you will be prompted to enter your contact information (shown below) so that a member of the Metropolitan Police Department may contact you to follow up with any additional questions about what you’ve witnessed.

Follow the prompts, clicking on “Next” until you have completed all of the fields and pages that are applicable to the report you are making. The forms will prompt you for the basic information, such as the date and time of occurrence, the location (entered by typing a street address, cross streets, by clicking on the map), information about the subject(s), vehicle(s), and a brief narrative (description) of what you saw. You can also submit photos on the “Attachments” screen.

Once you’ve entered all the data, the system will provide an opportunity to review everything before you submit it.

About Your Report

Every report is reviewed by analysts. Providing your contact information is required to ensure that MPD personnel can contact you to follow up with additional questions. If you prefer to make an anonymous report, contact the police at (202) 727-9099.