

Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention

Could this happen to you?

- Upon leaving home one morning a man observed a young man sitting in a car across the street. Although he felt suspicious about the stranger, he went to work. Upon his return that evening he found his home had been burglarized.
- A woman went to the grocery store one afternoon. She left her sliding door slightly open. "I was only gone 15 minutes," she stated. When she got home she found more than \$1,000 worth of her valuables missing.
- Several neighbors noticed new residents of a nearby home had many frequent "guests" visiting for short periods of time. There had also been some recent auto and home burglaries in the area. Although they

suspected drug dealing, they did not report anything to the police.

These are just a few examples of real-life situations that prompted neighbors to establish their own Neighborhood Watch group. Don't wait to become a victim. If you don't belong to a Neighborhood Watch group, get together with your neighbors and establish one.

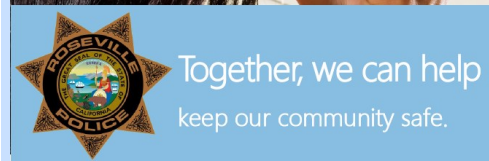
What is Neighborhood Watch? It is a program in which the people in one area (neighborhood) agree to watch out for each other. Neighborhood Watch signs are prominently posted warning criminals that your neighborhood has an active and organized Neighborhood Watch group.

Find out more about how to start a group in your area by attending a Neighborhood Watch Information Meeting at the Roseville Police Department. Meeting dates are posted on the Community Services' web page.

Go to the Department's website at www.roseville.ca.us/police. (Choose "Community Services from the menu bar on the left hand side of the screen.)



If you See Something Say Something



Informed and alert citizens play a key role in keeping neighborhoods safe. Do your part in keeping your community safe by paying attention to your surroundings. If you see something suspicious call the police.

Here are some examples of suspicious behavior:

- Someone going door-to-door asking unusual questions or looking into houses or car windows.
- Unusual noises that cannot be explained, like breaking glass or pounding sounds.
- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle. (This could be drug or stolen property sales.)
- Someone removing property from unoccupied homes or closed businesses.
- Someone loitering in a neighborhood on foot or in a vehicle when there is no apparent purpose or destination.

When you call the police be ready to describe specifically what you observed:

- Who or what you saw;
- When you saw it;
- Where it occurred; and
- Why it's suspicious.

9-1-1 should be reserved for emergencies.

Here are some examples of when to use 9-1-1.

- a person's safety is in immediate peril
- a crime is in progress
- a person has a serious injury that needs an immediate response
- any time when an immediate response is required and you cannot be placed on hold

The Roseville Police Department's non-emergency dispatch number is (916) 774-5000 option 1. This number should be used to report incidents that have already occurred, when no immediate danger is present, and suspects are long gone.

Be a Good Neighbor

What can you do?

- Report crime. Don't assume that your neighbors have already reported the crime or that the police already know what is going on.
- Meet your neighbors and keep a watchful eye on the neighborhood. Call the police to report suspicious activity, people, or vehicles in your neighborhood.
- Don't be part of the problem. When you live in a residential neighborhood, your actions are felt by others.

Don't speed, maintain your house and property and be thoughtful of noise levels. Set a standard of behavior for others in your neighborhood to follow.

9-1-1 for emergencies and crimes in progress
916-774-5000 (opt. 1) non-emergency

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ROSEVILLE



PUBLIC SAFETY

Vacation Rental Scam



Have you planned your summer vacation yet?

Are you busy looking for that perfect vacation rental?

Scammers are busy, too, trying to trick you out of your vacation dollars. Scammers often advertise rentals that don't exist or aren't available.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, here are a couple of examples of how the scam may work:

- **Hijacked Ads**

Some scammers hijack a real rental or real estate listing by changing the email address or other contact information and placing the modified ad on another site. The altered ad may even use the name of the person who posted the original ad. In other cases, scammers

have hijacked the email accounts of property owners on reputable vacation rental websites.

- **Phantom Rentals**

Other rip-off artists make up listings for places that aren't for rent or don't exist and try to lure you in with the promise of low rent or great amenities. Their goal is to get your money before you find out.

Signs of a Scam

Be savvy when you're in search of a rental. Here are some signs you may be dealing with a scam:

- **They tell you to wire money.**

This is the surest sign of a scam. There's never a good reason to wire money to pay a security deposit, application fee, first month's rent, or vacation rental fee. That's true even if they send you a contract first. Wiring money is the same as sending cash — once you send it, you have no way to get it back.

- **They want a security deposit or first month's rent before you've met or signed a lease.**

It's never a good idea to send money to someone you've never met in person for an apartment you haven't seen. If

you can't visit an apartment or house yourself, ask someone you trust to go and confirm that it's for rent and that it is what was advertised. In addition to setting up a meeting, do a search on the owner and listing. If you find the same ad listed under a different name, that's a clue it may be a scam.

- **They say they're out of the country.**

But they have a plan to get the keys into your hands. It might involve a lawyer or an "agent" working on their behalf. Some scammers even create fake keys. Don't send money to them overseas. If you can't meet in person, see the apartment or sign a lease before you pay, keep looking. What if the rental itself is overseas? Paying with a credit card or through a reputable vacation rental website with its own payment system are your safest bets.



Check Your Credit Report



The Federal Trade Commission offers the following information on how to get copies of your credit report.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires each of the nationwide credit reporting companies — Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion — to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months.

A credit report includes information on where you live, how you pay your bills, and whether you've been sued or have filed for bankruptcy. Nationwide credit reporting companies sell the information in your report to creditors, insurers, employers, and other businesses that use it to evaluate your applications for credit, insurance, employment, or renting a home.

Q: How do I order my free report?

The three nationwide credit reporting companies have set up a central website, a toll-free telephone number, and a mailing address through which you can order your free annual report.

To order, visit annualcreditreport.com or

call 1-877-322-8228. Do not contact the three nationwide credit reporting companies individually. They are providing free annual credit reports only through annualcreditreport.com.

You may order your reports from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies at the same time, or you can order your report from each of the companies one at a time. The law allows you to order one free copy of your report from each of the nationwide credit reporting companies every 12 months.

Once you receive your credit report, review it to make sure there are no fraudulent entries. Unknown credit card accounts are a red flag that your identity may have been compromised.

Sources: Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Reports, Crimeprevention.org, sjpd.org, Department of Homeland Security

Police Department

1051 Junction Blvd.
Roseville CA 95678
(916) 774-5000
www.roseville.ca.us/police

Call 9-1-1
EMERGENCY
IN PROGRESS

Abandoned Vehicle Hotline

(916) 746-1022

Alarms/Alarm Permits

(916) 774-5093

Animal Control

(916) 774-5090

Community Events & Neighborhood Watch

(916) 774-5050
PDCommunityServices@roseville.ca.us

Graffiti Abatement

(916) 746-1021

Police News & Crime Alert Emails:

www.roseville.ca.us/enotify

RCONA

(Roseville Coalition Of
Neighborhood
Associations)
www.RCONA.org



The "9-1-1" is published for City of Roseville's residents by the Community Relations Division of the Roseville Police Department. Please send comments or suggestions to pdcommunityservices@roseville.ca.us, (916) 774-5050.

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