

Mobile Patrol Summary



What is Mobile Patrol?

A group of trained citizens who want to stop crime in their neighborhoods by being the **“eyes and ears”** of the West Valley City Police Department. Like the traditional neighborhood watch, mobile patrol groups report any crime and suspicious activity to the Police and their neighbors. The purpose of citizen mobile patrol is to assist in deterring crime. Patrol members should report crimes and suspicious activity to the Police. These citizens can also educate their communities in good safety practices.

Successful efforts to combat crime requires the cooperative efforts of police and citizens. The police simply cannot be everywhere. For this reason, success in fighting crime is dependent on citizen cooperation and assistance. Many crimes might never be committed if citizens were more alert to suspicious activity and notified the police immediately.

Mobile Patrol kits will be made available through the Neighborhood Services Office. Materials will be checked out and are expected to be returned if your program becomes inactive. The kit will include a storage box, car magnets, documentation log, flashlight, and flood light.

Some things to remember about mobile patrol members:

1. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Participants ALWAYS patrol in teams. NEVER ALONE.
3. Participants are required to attend training provided by West Valley City a minimum of once every two years.
4. Participants do NOT have police authority.
5. Participants are responsible and liable for their own safety and actions at all times.
6. Participants should NOT leave their vehicle to confront suspects.
7. Participants should NOT represent themselves as employees of representatives of the Police or City.
8. Participants should NOT carry or use weapons such as firearms, nightsticks, mace, clubs, etc.
9. Participants should NOT consume ANY alcoholic beverage eight hours prior to or during their patrol shift
10. Participants should...

ALWAYS CONSIDER PERSONAL SAFETY AS THE FIRST PRIORITY!

Together we can make a difference!



RECOGNIZING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

| ACTIVITY | COULD BE |
|--|--|
| Slow moving vehicles | Certain cars that seem to be circling the block repetitively or following an aimless course, particularly without lights in the evening, could be driven by a person casing houses for burglary attempts or by someone waiting for a drug pickup. Possible sex offenders could also exhibit this behavior. Pay close attention if the car is seen around schools, parks, or playgrounds. |
| Parked vehicles that are occupied | Lookouts for burglaries or robberies in progress may be sitting in parked cars, pretending sometimes to be a young couple in love. An occupied car waiting in front of a house where no one is home or a business that is clearly closed could be the get away car for a burglary in progress. |
| Abandoned vehicles | This may be a stolen car. |
| Stranger walking along the side yard of a house or going into the backyard | Unless it is an acquaintance, relative, or legitimate employee doing a check of utilities or repairs to the house, it is very likely that this person is a burglar or trespasser. |
| Excessive traffic, people, and cars at a certain residence | This activity is not necessarily suspicious unless it happens on a daily or regular basis, especially late at night or during unusual hours. A legitimate home-based business may have some traffic, but if it seems excessive, the residents could be engaging in drug trafficking, prostitution, or fencing of stolen goods. |
| Excessive personal property stored in cars or garages | Unless the person is running a garage sale, a large accumulation of property represents stolen goods. Especially notice if there are several of the same type of item, such as four televisions in the garage. |
| Someone going door-to-door in a residential area | Young children selling cookies or legitimate solicitors may have a reason to knock on neighbor's doors. But if someone seems to be randomly going up to doorways, it could be a burglar or a person who is part of a burglary team. Pay particular attention if one person goes around the side of the house while the other stays at the front door. |
| Forcible entry to a business, house, or car | This person could have forgotten his/her keys or he/she could be trying to steal something. |

BEING A GOOD WITNESS

Communicating effectively with the Police Department is important.

- Be credible with police by stating the truth in a clear, concise way.
- VECC prioritizes calls. Response varies according to situation. Police may personally contact you, drive through your area, or take a report via telephone.
- You can request personal contact with police. But this may take many hours depending on the officers work load.
- DO NOT INTERFERE with police when on the scene of an incident, unless they address you first. You can say, "I am with neighborhood watch mobile patrol and I'll be waiting over there if you need to speak with me."
- Ask for case numbers from the officer at the scene or from a telephonic officer. You can then follow up later to find out if the case has been solved. It is helpful to have the case number when you have additional information for the case.

Describing a **suspect**:

- Gender
- Race
- Age
- Height
- Weight/Build
- Complexion
- Distinguishable Traits
- Hair
- Clothing
- Direction of Travel

An example:

Male, white, approximately 45 years old, between 5'6" and 5'8", 150-160 pounds, medium build, gray hair, no facial hair. Wearing a blue baseball cap, no coat, white shirt, dark pants, and sneakers. Was last seen at 2500 Pine Street and headed toward Lincoln.

Describing a **vehicle**:

- Make
- Model/Body Style
- Year
- Color
- Distinguishable Traits
- License Plate
- Direction of Travel

Try to notice and remember as many characteristics of a suspect and/or vehicle as possible in order to effectively communicate with Police. Refer to the Mobile Patrol Observation notes. Remember, stay calm. A description is not expected to be perfect. The more information you can remember and write down quickly, the better.

An example:

A black, late model, BMW, four door sedan, UTAH license plate number ABC 123, with a spotlight on the driver's side and a large dent on the rear passenger side. It was on 2700 West headed northbound toward 3500 South.



Neighborhood Watch



This document has been prepared by the West Valley City Neighborhood Services Office for use by neighborhood watch organizations. www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods