



Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center

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9-1-1 FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

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Date Issued: June 1, 1996
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APPROVED: _____

Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee

APPROVED: _____

General Manager, SCCECC

SUBJECT: PROWLERS

A prowler is a person who loiters, wanders or moves about furtively upon the private property of another -- at anytime -- without visible or lawful business. It is important you obtain as much information as possible from the reporting party. A prowler call can range from noises heard to suspect(s) entering a home, apartment or area. The call may be a false alarm -- limbs touching the side of a home or a cat marching across a roof. Or it may be the prelude to an in-progress felony -- entry by a burglar or a deviate into the home of a frightened citizen. In each case, the caller will probably be extremely frightened. As a dispatcher, you provide security to the caller.

Cover units (a K9 unit, if available) should always be dispatched to a prowler call. Always keep the RP on the phone until an officer contacts them.

Obtain the following information from the reporting party.

- ◆ Address and telephone number - nearest cross street
 - Name of RP
- ◆ Location of the prowler
 - Backyard, right side of house
- ◆ Was the prowler seen or heard?
 - If the prowler was seen, obtain a description
 - If the RP heard noises - what type of noises

- ◆ Any vehicles heard or seen in area?
- ◆ Time element - How long ago did the RP see or hear the prowler?
- ◆ Any obstacles or hazards around the building
 - Low hanging clothes line, fences, animals in yard
- ◆ Location of RP in the residence; Is the RP alone?
 - Location of other occupants within residence
- ◆ Is the RP or any other person armed? If so, advise the RP to put the weapon down; explain to them that you do not want them or an officer harmed.
 - Always advise the responding officers of any weapons
- ◆ Keep RP on the telephone until the officer contacts them; always keep the responding officers updated with current information from the RP.