



Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center

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Michael J. McDougall
General Manager



9-1-1 FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Policy No.	4865	Date Issued:	June 1, 1996
Section:	4800 -- Specific Procedures, Continued	Date Revised:	May 10, 2004
Accreditation Standards: None			

SUBJECT: SUSPICIOUS PERSONS OR VEHICLES

APPROVED: _____
Chairperson, Law Enforcement Users Subcommittee

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Michael J. McDougall, General Manager

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a consistent and reliable way to dispatch law enforcement officers to reports of suspicious persons and/or vehicles.
- 1.2 To define and clarify specific incident types that call takers will use when classifying reports of suspicious persons and/or vehicles. Accurate use of incident types will help responding officers determine the most appropriate response to such reports.

2.0 Procedure

- 2.1 In accordance with Policy No. 3005 (Creating and Dispatching CAD System Incidents), call takers receiving reports of suspicious persons will create a computer aided dispatch system (CAD) incident, using the most appropriate incident type.
- 2.2 Call takers will obtain as much pertinent information as possible from reporting parties. Pertinent information includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Location
- Time element
- Description of persons/vehicles. License plates will be run for hot checks and registration information.
- Description of activity. Why does the RP believe the activity is suspicious? What suspicious activity does the RP see?
- Direction of travel
- RP's name, address, and phone number. Does the RP want contact from responding officer(s)?

3.0 Incident Types

3.1 Call takers will use the incident type whose definition most closely resembles the circumstances as reported by the caller. Accurate use of incident types will assist responding officers in determining the most appropriate response.

3.1.1 **SUSPER (Suspicious Person):** Defined as any person who is seen in any public place, or wandering from place to place, without visible or lawful business with circumstances that, to a reasonable person, indicates that public safety demands their investigation.

3.1.2 **SOLICIT (Solicitor Person):** Defined as any persons who have lawful business, clearly state their purpose, and identifies themselves at the request of the RP. These persons may not linger, harass, loiter, or disregard a posted "No Soliciting" sign. This incident type is to be used specifically when call takers determine, after thorough questioning of RP's, that the solicitors have not violated any law or ordinance and are engaged in some form of sales.

3.1.3 **SUSVEH (Suspicious Vehicle):** Defined as any vehicle upon public streets or private property that is unfamiliar, parked in a manner without visible or lawful business, or is being operated in a suspicious manner that, to a reasonable person, indicates that public safety demands their investigation. This incident type will not be used in place of any vehicle code offenses and must include a description of the suspicious activity.