

Call 911 for suspicious activity, emergencies and crimes in progress

Written by

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There have been reports of burglaries in some city neighborhoods recently so now is a good reminder that the City of Minneapolis wants residents to call 911 to report any suspicious activity, crimes in progress and anytime folks need the police, fire, or ambulance to respond. Residents are a neighborhood's eyes and ears, and arrests often result from good witness information and quick calls to 911. It's important for folks to call 911 if they think they see something suspicious. Examples of suspicious activity could include sounds of glass breaking, an unfamiliar vehicle circling the block, suspected drug dealing, or an unfamiliar person carrying items from a house.

Tips for calling 911

When calling 911 folks should follow these guidelines:

- Do not hang up. If the call isn't answered immediately or if you encounter silence on the line, do not hang up and redial unless the silence lasts more than 8 seconds.
- Do not hang up if you call 911 by accident. Hang ups require 911 operators to call back the number the incoming 911 call came from. This happens up to 200 times a day and uses valuable 911 resources including phone lines that should be used for answering emergency calls.
- Give your location when calling 911. This includes, address, intersection, and landmarks. Be prepared to give a short description of a suspect.
- Help can be sent while you talk. A caller should state the problem briefly, answer the operator's questions and stay on the line until the operator terminates the call.
- You can ask 911 operators to stay on the line until help arrives.
- If you need a translator, let the operator know or simply say, "Language line."

When to call 911

There are many reasons to call 911 including:

- If the situation requires an ambulance or the fire department to respond immediately
- To report a situation that requires a police officer at the scene (for example: assaults, burglaries, kidnapping, domestic disputes, auto theft, accidents in which there are injuries / or it is unknown whether injuries have occurred, etc.).
- To report a crime that is in progress
- To report suspicious criminal activity that you witness (for example: sounds of shots fired, cries for help, sounds of glass breaking or if you see an unfamiliar person carrying items from a house).

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When not to call 911

There are also many reasons not to call 911. Folks should avoid calling 911 to get directions, legal advice, or to find out if someone is in jail. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Jail Roster is available online at <http://www4.co.hennepin.mn.us/webbooking/> or by calling 612-348-5112. People should also not call 911 to report city issues that do not need police, fire, or an ambulance to respond. They should use the City of Minneapolis website or call 311.