

How can I get in touch with the police?

Police & Fire:

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency: 510-471-1365

City Website:

www.unioncity.org

Contact information for various departments and people.

City Facebook Pages:

City of Union City & City of Union City Police Department

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the difference between a burglary and a theft? What about a robbery?

Theft is when someone takes something from you without consent. Robbery is when someone takes something from you using physical force or the threat of force. Burglary is when someone enters a place without consent with intent to commit a crime within that place. These crimes often get confused or lumped together by people.

What should I do if I discover there was a burglary at my home?

Call the non-emergency number for the police. If you are not sure the burglar has gone, wait for the police to arrive before performing a security check of the premises. If you have already entered the premises, try not to touch anything so the investigating officer can collect evidence.

What should I do if I discover my car was burglarized?

Vehicle burglaries can be reported online at www.unioncity.org. If you happen to have video surveillance of the burglary or the burglar left behind something that can help determine their identity, contact the police department. Reporting crimes like this are important to us because we track this information. If we start to notice an influx of these types of crimes happening in one area, we address it.

What if I witness illegal activity? What is the difference between an emergency and a non-emergency situation? How do I know whether to call 911 or the non-emergency line?

Contact the police if you witness any illegal activity. If the activity involves physical violence towards a person or you know someone's safety is in danger, this is an emergency and you need to call 911. For all other matters use the non-emergency number. If you see a crime in progress, do NOT try to stop the crime or confront the criminal. You can never predict how they will respond and your personal safety could be jeopardized. Call the police immediately.

What is "suspicious"?

If you see...

- A person who seems out of place or wanders without a purpose.
- Persons conducting transactions from a vehicle.
- Someone unfamiliar going door-to-door in a neighborhood and stepping into a backyard or side yard
- Person not a postal worker or delivery person taking mail or other packages away from a residence or business

If you hear...

- Someone asking about details of security procedures, operations, etc. in a way that would cause suspicion
- Someone pretending to be someone they are not (a police officer, janitor, security, or other personnel) to gain access to a site
- Unusual noises like gunshots, breaking glass, screaming/yelling, or alarms
- A threat (implied or outspoken)

If a vehicle...

- Is abandoned (it may be stolen)
- Has a weapon inside it
- Moves slowly and/or without lights on, or seems to be "wandering" without a destination
- Is waiting in front of a home or business when the owners are absent or the business is closed.

What if I see an occupied vehicle parked in my neighborhood that appears suspicious?

Contact the police via the non-emergency number. Do not confront the car. Let the police determine whether or not the person or people belong in the neighborhood. When reporting this type of incident, provide dispatch with a description of the car, the number of occupants, and a license plate number if possible.

How does parking enforcement work when I think there is an issue in my neighborhood?

Call the non-emergency number to report all parking related issues. These types of calls are reported to the traffic division. UCPD has several traffic officers and parking enforcement cadets that will address the issues reported to them. Abandoned vehicles are tagged and have to be moved within 72 hours of being tagged. If they are not moved by that time, they are towed. All other parking violations can be cited immediately by the parking enforcement cadet or any police officer.

The house next door seems like there are tons of people living in it. Is there a legal limit? At what point do I call the police about this if the foot and car traffic becomes a nuisance in front of my house?

There is no limit to the amount of people living in a home, but a person who is subleasing rooms must get a business license from the city. If foot traffic and vehicle traffic becomes a nuisance, contact the Community Oriented Policing & Problem Solving Unit (COPPS Unit) at 510-675-5267. The COPPS Unit will investigate and determine if illegal activity or some other violations of the law or city ordinances is occurring.