POULSBO POLICE STREET BEAT

EDITION 3

What Should I do if I feel someone is following me?

We recently received a question from a concerned resident about feeling followed inside a store. Whether you suspect someone is following you on foot or in a vehicle, it is important to know how to stay safe and protect yourself. Here are some tips from the Poulsbo Police Department:

If You're Being Followed in a Store

Alert Store Staff: Find a store employee or manager, explain the situation, and ask for help. They can keep an eye on the individual, notify security if available, and help you reach a safe area.

Stay in Public, Well-Lit Areas: Avoid walking into secluded aisles or corners. The more visible you are, the less likely someone will attempt anything suspicious.

Keep Personal Items Secure: If you feel threatened, hold on to your purse, wallet, or bags tightly. Keep your phone on hand in case you need to call 9-1-1.

Trust Your Instincts: If the situation escalates or you still feel unsafe, call 9-1-1 right away.

If You're Being Followed in Public

Seek Safety in Numbers: Head toward areas where other people are present like restaurants, shops, or busy streets. The goal is to draw attention if someone is acting suspiciously.

Be Vocal: If you feel in danger, consider drawing attention by loudly saying things like, "I don't know you! Stay away!" or asking others nearby for help.

Call 9-1-1: If you believe you're in immediate danger or the person is behaving aggressively, don't hesitate to contact the police.

If You're Being Followed in a Car

Don't Drive Home: If you think a car is following you, do not lead the driver to your home. Instead, drive to the nearest police station or a well-lit, populated area (like a gas station or busy parking lot).

Stay Calm & Aware: Pay attention to your surroundings and keep your doors locked. If you can do so safely, note the make, model, and license plate of the vehicle.

Call 9-1-1: Let the dispatcher know your location, the direction you're heading, and any details about the suspect vehicle.

Key Takeaways

Trust Your Gut: If you're uneasy, there's likely a reason! Take steps to ensure your safety.

Call for Help: 9-1-1 should always be your first call if you believe there's an immediate threat.

Document If You Can: If it's safe to do so, make note of any distinct features like clothing, physical appearance, or vehicle descriptions to share with the police.

Have a general question about traffic laws, community safety, or police procedures? Send it to streetbeat@cityofpoulsbo.com (not monitored 24/7), and you may see your inquiry featured in the next Street Beat.

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