

Prince William County Police

Community Awareness



Stranger Safety

What do you think of when you hear this word? Most people usually visualize a stranger to be scary looking. The truth is A STRANGER IS ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW! A stranger can be male or female, large or small, young or old.

A stranger is not always a bad person but someone you must treat with caution. You might see "strangers" to and from your way to school, outside on your school playground, in your neighborhood, or at any public place you might go. Therefore, there are a set of rules to follow when you are around strangers. Remember your safety is always first!

- Be aware of who is around you and what they are doing.
- Do not go places alone, always have someone with you.
- Adults who need help should not be asking kids, so let them find another adult. This includes adults with pets.

If approached by a stranger:

- Do not talk to strangers and never give your name or address.
- No matter what they say, do not go anywhere with a stranger.
- Do not take anything from a stranger, like candy or a toy.
- If you feel uncomfortable, walk the other way and find help.
- Always tell a parent if a stranger make you feel uncomfortable.
- If a stranger grabs you: Run, Yell, and Tell! (kick, scream, get attention)
- If you are unable to get away from a stranger immediately, never give up trying!

If you think a stranger may be in your house:

- If the door is open when you come home from school, it may mean there is a stranger inside. Do **not** enter the house. Call a parent or 911 from a trusted neighbor's phone.
- If you are home alone and hear someone in the house, get out if you can and call a parent or 911 from a neighbor's phone. If you cannot get out safely, dial 911 immediately and then hide in a closet or bathroom with the door locked until the police come.

If you see a suspicious stranger:

- If you are home alone and see a car or person near your house that looks suspicious or makes you feel uncomfortable, you can call your parent, your trusted neighbor, or the non-emergency number for the police to come and check it out.

Source: VA Cooperative Extension

REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE

Emergency: 911 - Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500