

MOBILE DRUG DEALING INFORMATION SHEET



WHAT IS IT:

Mobile drug dealing is when a dealer uses a cell phone and a car to meet with buyers at random locations.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

Suspicious behavior typically displayed by people engaged in mobile drug dealing:

- Continuous car / foot traffic around the block or back and forth on the same route multiple times
- The same vehicle meeting up with many different vehicles for short meetings
- The same person seen in many different vehicles
- Strange vehicles from out of the area
- A vehicle occupant getting out of the car, walking up the block, handing something to someone, then returning to the car and leaving
- Nervous waiting
- Quick/brief meetings and then parting
- Hand-to-hand transactions
- Transactions through car windows
- Cell phone usage and then meeting someone
- Headlight or brake light flashing
- Hand signaling (waving off the meeting)
- Someone taking or placing objects in odd places of the car (magnetic holders under wheel wells, engine compartments, under dashes, in trunks)
- Observation of drug packaging materials, passing of money, or other goods (e.g., stolen merchandise)

WHAT TO DO:

- Have pencil and paper handy to note your observations (see MPD Witness Form).
- **Call 911 when you spot the activity occurring.**
- When observing and recording the suspected criminal activity, please note the following:
 - Plate number and state of issue on involved vehicles. Please try to identify which is the drug dealer's vehicle versus the buyer's vehicle.
 - Give a brief vehicle description: make and model, color, 2 door or 4 door, truck or car.
 - Suspect descriptions; race, gender, approximate age/height/weight or build, clothing description, any other distinguishing characteristics, and last direction of travel.
 - Brief description of what you saw, e.g., hand to hand drug transaction or a scenario that appears to be a drug transaction.
 - Where did the suspects take the drugs from; clothing, passenger compartment, trunk, from under the hood, or a hidden compartment someplace on the vehicle?
- **Please note:** The information you give in the call can later be recovered by police officers. You may not see a squad as they search for the vehicles and people. Officers are going to search along the route to where the suspect's license plate lists. If you wish to see the officer, please inform the 911 operator. Retain your written observations.

FURTHER RESOURCES:

If you would like to speak with someone in Community Crime Prevention/SAFE, please locate your home on the map found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/safe-staff-map.pdf> and contact your Crime Prevention Specialist or Sector Lieutenant.