

Suspicious People

The following information has been provided to help the campus community identify suspicious people and/or behavior, and provide guidelines for reporting it.

Who Is A Suspicious Person?

A suspicious person is either one who is exhibiting suspicious behavior, or who is in an area or doing something that is not normal (such as supposedly changing the oil on a car on the Horseshoe).

What Is Suspicious Behavior?

Suspicious behavior is sometimes difficult to define, but is one of those things that most people “know when they see it.” It is something that is out of place, not quite right, or just makes you feel ‘weird’ about it. The following is a partial list of behavior that may be suspicious:

- ❑ Wearing heavy clothing in warm weather (e.g., a trench coat when it is 85 degrees outside)
- ❑ Asking questions that are not common about the location of something, security measures, or availability of chemicals or other items.
- ❑ Attempts to conceal the face by turning away when someone approaches (e.g., rapidly turn and pretend to read something on a bulletin board)
- ❑ ‘Hiding’ in shadows or behind objects in an apparent attempt to keep from being clearly seen
- ❑ Being evasive when asked a direct question, attempts to change the subject
- ❑ Giving too many details that are unrelated to the conversation (e.g., when asked about what they are doing in a restricted area, they start talking about what they did when they got up in the morning, where they parked, everyone else they have visited or know on campus, etc.)
- ❑ Carrying items that do not fit in with what they are doing (e.g., a student carrying a toolbox into a lecture classroom)

What To Do If You See A Suspicious Person

If you see someone that is suspicious, note the following:

What they are wearing

What they look like (height, build, hair color, skin complexion, etc.)

Where they are

The direction they are heading (if they are moving)

Any vehicles they are using (include type, color, and license plate, if possible)

What they are doing

Call the NMSU Police Department at (505) 646-3311 as soon as possible so an officer can be sent to check on the person. It is much better to report several people that are suspicious but turn out to be all right than to not report anyone out of fear of embarrassment.