

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News Release



Hennepin County Sheriff's Office urges citizens: **If You See Something, Say Something**

August 23, 2011 (MINNEAPOLIS) – With the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks approaching, Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek is urging citizens to be aware of the terrorism prevention effort known as, “If You See Something, Say Something.”

If a citizen “sees something” suspicious, they are asked to “say something” – by reporting it to law enforcement.

“Don’t hesitate to call 911,” said Hennepin County Sheriff Rich Stanek, “We live in a caring community where families, businesses, schools, and so many folks routinely take an active role in assisting law enforcement with public safety.”

Though there have not been any specific threats reported in Hennepin County, the upcoming anniversary of 9-11 is prompting reminders for the public to remain vigilant.

In Hennepin County, people are asked to contact law enforcement or call 911 if they would like to report suspicious activity or threats.

(More)

Here are just a few examples of reasons to contact law enforcement or to call 911:

- An unattended package or backpack at a bus stop, light rail stop, or other crowded area
- An unusual piece of mail arriving at a business
- An unknown vehicle parked illegally, or for an extended period of time
- People trying to access a restricted area in a government building or a person behaving in an odd manner near critical infrastructure such as hospitals, government buildings, or utilities.

For more information about suspicious activities, visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website. (<http://www.dhs.gov/files/reportincidents/see-something-say-something.shtm>)

Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) unveiled new national television ads to help educate citizens. One ad depicts people near public transportation and they are watching as someone removes a handbag from a car and leaves it on a bench. The ad urges citizens to call to report the incident even if they are not sure if it is a threat or a harmless action.

In Minnesota, the Department of Public Safety has used advertising to promote “see something, say something” in skyways of Minneapolis, the Mall of America in Bloomington, and Rochester.

In addition to partnerships with Minnesota and several states, DHS has signed on partnerships nationwide for the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign, including: Amtrak; the general aviation community; the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department; The Colorado Rockies, the Indianapolis 500, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; Pentagon Force Protection Agency; the U.S. Tennis Association; a variety of states including Tennessee, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida; the New York Mets; Meadowlands Stadium; the American Hotel and Lodging Association; New Jersey Transit; the Mall of America; Walmart; the National Football League (NFL); the National Basketball Association (NBA); AEG Facilities; Jewish organizations; U.S. Golf at the U.S. Open; National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); and several thousand federal buildings.

For media questions, contact Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office Interim PIO Tracey Martin at 612-596-9759 OR tracey.martin@co.hennepin.mn.us

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