



School Safety and Security

September 2018

If You See Something, Say Something™

Are our children safe at school? It's a question many have been asking for years and, more recently following an uptick in school violence threats across the nation, including Maine. This threat has State of Maine agencies and law enforcement partners working together to find a solution. There is nothing more important than the safety of our children and those committed to teaching them. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, the Maine Department of Education, State Fire Marshal's Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Maine State Police, Maine Sheriffs Association, Maine Chiefs of Police Association, and the Maine Emergency Management Agency will provide tips and resource information to Maine schools to help provide some guidance for identifying signs and preventing school violence.

Overview

The If You See Something, Say Something™ campaign is a public awareness campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to raise public awareness about terrorism, violence and the importance of reporting suspicious activity to state and local authorities.

- Local school officials, communities and citizens play an important role in preventing violent attacks and keeping our communities safe.
- Suspicious activity is based on behaviors and does not include factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
- Anyone who sees suspicious activity in Maine is asked to call their local law enforcement agency or **9-1-1 in case of an emergency or if a crime is in progress.**

What is considered suspicious activity?

- Suspicious activity may include an unusual interest in gaining sensitive information about facility security, operations, or maintenance.
- An unattended bag or backpack.
- Threatening comments or social media posts.
- Suspicious purchases of guns or items that could be used to construct an explosive device, including hydrogen peroxide, acetone, gasoline, propane, or ammonium nitrate fertilizers.
- Theft of security personnel uniforms or credentials
- Attempted or unauthorized access to rooftops or other potentially sensitive areas.
- Individuals acting suspiciously around the entrances to an event location.
- Unusual or bulky clothing that is inconsistent with the weather.

What information should I report?

- ✓ Who or what you saw
- ✓ When you saw it
- ✓ Where it occurred
- ✓ Why it's suspicious



For more information on the bulletin topic, please contact the MEMA Public Information Officer Susan Faloon at susan.faloon@maine.gov