



Everett Police Department
North Administrative Sergeant
3002 Wetmore Ave.
Everett, WA 98201

EVERETT POLICE



DEPARTMENT

Community Awareness

Suspected Drug Activity



Everett Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
(425) 257-7521
www.everettpolice.org

Nuisance Drug Premises:

Thank you for contacting the Everett Police Department about a potential problem in your neighborhood.

This brochure provides basic information on nuisance drug premises, indicators for identifying a drug house, and log sheets to track nuisance drug locations.

Drugs are an irritant and a challenging problem in our community. Through active community involvement this problem can be addressed. But, citizens must be willing to act and take responsibility for protecting their neighborhoods.



The key is education and knowing what to look for, being a good witness, and protecting yourself. Education slows frustration by understanding what law enforcement may and may not do as actions cannot be taken on suspicion alone. If so,

drug houses would immediately be shut down – at the sacrifice of personal freedoms. The same Constitution protecting law-abiding citizens also protects suspected criminals. All citizens are free from unlawful searches and seizures of their person, vehicles, and homes.

The Everett Police Department is progressive and aggressively seeks to rid neighborhoods of crime. Sound legal cases are built to stand in court through the collection of tangible, credible evidence. When this process fails, criminals go free and return to your neighborhoods and scoff at the system they beat. Patience and vigilance is needed.



Common Indicators:

Typically, there are common activities associated with drug houses. Indicators alone do not prove a drug house exists. However, indicators provide reasonable suspicion that may warrant further investigation.

The following are indicators to look for:

Foot Traffic:

- Visitors walking to the residence,
- Unkempt, disoriented or paranoid visitors,
- Visitors carrying in tools or electronics and leaving with nothing, and
- Unusually full or heavy backpacks or bags.

Vehicle Traffic:

- Heavy or large volume influxes,
- Short stays of under 20 minutes,
- Clean plates on dirty cars,
- Damage vehicles, and
- Types consistent with stolen cars.

Change in Conditions:

- Trash or junk accumulation,
- Premise or yard deterioration, and
- Dismantling and leaving vehicles or machinery.

(Drug users often experience nervous energy and start projects but cannot concentrate or complete tasks.)

Surroundings:

- Increased neighborhood crimes, (Auto thefts, vehicle prowls)
- Neighbors exhibit unusual behavior and visit or defend drug house occupants.

Characteristics:

- Garage door never opens,
- Closed blinds or boarded windows,
- Chemical containers brought in and out of residence,
- Drug paraphernalia left around neighborhood, and
- Chemical or caustic smells. (cat urine)

Occupants:

- Diminished hygiene,
- Never leave and do not work,
- Awake or asleep for days,
- Unsupervised and neglected children,
- Unattended and neglected pets, and
- Numerous youth/teenage visitors.



Reporting Incidents:

Immediately call 911 for in-progress incidents that require an officer's response. Mail the enclosed Activity Log or call the Administrative Sgt. with questions.

Calling 911:

Call 911 if anyone's in immediate danger or a crime is occurring. Remain calm and speak clearly. Provide brief, specific answers as dispatchers follow protocol. Provide as many details as possible about the person/vehicle you are reporting. Make sure to provide your address and suspected drug houses address.

Activity Log:

When notable activity occurs at suspected drug houses, use the Activity Log for documentation. Complete multiple sheets, as needed. If multiple neighbors observe the same event, document on separate Activity Logs prior to discussing the event to preserve the integrity of what you observed.

Complete your **name**, **address**, **phone**, and the **suspect address** on the Activity Log. As activity occurs, document the **date** and **start time** of your observation.

Date	Start Time	End Time	Vehicle	Participants #1 #2 #3

Assess the incident and complete the **activity description** using descriptive words (see "Common Indicators" section). Leave out emotional observations.

(Ex: Poor injured puppy -v- The Pitbull limped - apparent broken leg.) Record **vehicle** information:

License, **make**, **model**, **color**, **number of doors**, and **other** (damage or alterations). Document **participant** information:

Name, **height**, **weight**, **build**, **hair**, and

clothing. Document the **end time** when activity ceases. As with official affidavits, **sign** and **date** each sheet. Include **page numbers** to maintain the correct chronological order.

Each witness should complete their own Activity Log. Only report what was actually observed. Blank spaces or partial information is acceptable. Proofread for accuracy and complete forms legibly.

Mail completed Activity Log to the Everett Police Department (Admin. Sergeant - 3002 Wetmore Ave, Everett, WA 98201). *Do not* call 911 to have a patrol officer pick up completed forms. Contact from Everett Police Detectives or the Snohomish County Regional Drug Task Force to citizens completing Activity Logs is not a standard procedure. Contact the Admin. Sergeant (425-257-8461) if you have specific questions. Remember: Processing information and researching your situation takes time – be patient. In most cases police action cannot be taken based solely on your Activity Log. However, patterns and habits are identified that substantiate the overall course of action to be taken. Also, utilize resources from the City of Everett Neighborhood Associations and get involved in Block Watch groups.

Remember **Personal Safety**:

Never put yourself in danger to gather information.

Call 911 if someone is in danger or you observe in-progress crimes.

Police - Community Partnerships



Documentation is the key to building cases against drug houses. Keep good, consistent, and accurate records. Truthful information that was *observed* is required. The consequences to knowingly providing incorrect information puts you in jeopardy of violating perjury laws and lets criminals go free. Since your statements may be called into court, they must be accurate and without speculation.

Citizens must trust law enforcement to handle their information in a professional, appropriate, and confidential manner. Signing your statement carries far greater weight than anonymous tips. Be diligent! Problems are not resolved overnight. Use the collaborative neighborhood to work with police on suspected drug houses as citizens committed to long term solutions find success.

Make your *Personal Safety* the top priority.

