



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
SERGIO G. DIAZ
Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2019

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REMINDER TO WATCH YOUR SURROUNDINGS

RIVERSIDE, CA – The Riverside Police Department would like to remind our parents and students to be aware of your surroundings while walking or biking to and from school. Recently, there have been a couple of instances where a student was approached by a suspicious person in a vehicle offering a ride while on the way to school. One encounter occurred in the Home Gardens area and is being investigated by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and the other occurred on Friday, April 26, 2019, near Tyler Street and Hole Avenue, and is being investigated by our West Neighborhood Policing Center. It is unclear at this time if these two incidents are related.

The suspect from Friday's incident in Riverside was described as a Hispanic male adult who was between the ages of 35 to 40 years old, 5'7" tall, about 200 pounds, and seen driving a tan or gold 2-door pickup truck, possibly a Toyota.



When walking or riding your bike to school, it is always safer to do so in pairs or groups. Younger children should always be accompanied by their parent or older sibling, which can make for a nice way to spend time together. Parents, help your child pick a safe route to and from school and remind them to stick to it and not take shortcuts that can be less safe. Children, do not talk with strangers and NEVER take rides from people not arranged by the parents.

The Riverside Police Department, the school districts, and our Riverside community considers any suspicious encounters with our youth serious and want everyone to remember that if you see something, say something. If any child or teen experiences a suspicious encounter before or after school, please make sure to notify your school staff, but also the Riverside Police Department at (951) 354-2007. To learn more about child safety rules or what is considered suspicious, visit our website at <https://www.riversideca.gov/RPD/community/brochures/default.asp>.



Child Safety Rules

Please follow these guidelines and encourage the schools, day care centers, churches and other organizations in your area to teach these "Rules for Safety."

-  Before I go anywhere, I always check with my parents or the person in charge first. I tell them where I'm going, how I'll get there, who will be going with me and when I'll be back.
- I get permission from my parents first before getting into a car or leaving with anyone- even someone I know. I ask them before I change my plans and never accept money, gifts or treats without my parent's knowledge.
- It's safer for me to be with other people when I go places or play outside. I should always use the "buddy system."
- I say "NO!" if someone tries to touch me in ways that make me feel afraid, uncomfortable or confused. Then I go and tell a grown-up I trust what happened.
- I know it's not my fault if someone touches me in a way that's not okay. I shouldn't keep those touches a secret.
- I should talk to grown-ups about problems I think are too big for me to handle on my own. A lot of people care about me and will listen and believe me. I'm not alone.
- It's never too late to ask for help. I can keep asking until I get the help I need.

I'm a special person, and I deserve to feel safe. My rules are:

- ✓ Check first.
- ✓ Use the "Buddy System."
- ✓ Say "NO!", then go and tell.
- ✓ Talk with grown-ups I trust about my problems and concerns.

To report child abuse, contact the Riverside County Child Support Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-442-4918 or djps.co.riverside.ca.us

SERGIO G. DIAZ
CHIEF OF POLICE

"My Rules for Safety" presented courtesy of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Riverside Police Department.

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