

MAFES Dawg Tracks

September 11, 2017



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

*See Something,
Say Something*

Hearing the date of September 11th always brings back a flood of memories. The memories are different for each of us, depending on where you were and where your loved ones were. The images and news reports that followed that infamous day stirred up sadness, anger, fear & patriotism.

As a result of the attacks on Sept 11, 2001, agencies have been created and new laws passed, throughout the United States. Recently a bill was passed adding a new section 95-15-1 to the MS Code. It provides immunity from liability for good faith reporting of suspicious activity or behavior. More easily remembered and known as the **“Mississippi See Something, Say Something Act of 2016”**. No matter where you are – at work, in your own yard, on vacation, or just running errands around town- it is always wise to be observant of your surroundings.

MSU-PD relays good advice:

“Public apathy is a criminal's greatest ally. If you see or suspect criminal activity, you cannot assume that someone else has reported it. Whether you are a victim or an observer, you should report any crime, suspicious activity, or emergency... remember, you don't need proof that a crime has occurred.”

Because of the daily activities, research, and chemicals in our work environments here at MSU, we should be especially observant around the laboratories and farms.

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So, what is suspicious activity?

Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related crime. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Unusual items or situations:** A vehicle is parked in an odd location, a package/luggage is unattended, a window/door is open that is usually closed, or other out-of-the-ordinary situations occur.
- **Eliciting information:** A person questions individuals at a level beyond curiosity about a building's purpose, operations, security procedures and/or personnel, shift changes, etc.
- **Observation/surveillance:** Someone pays unusual attention to facilities or buildings beyond a casual or professional interest. This includes extended loitering without explanation (particularly in concealed locations); unusual, repeated, and/or prolonged observation of a building (e.g., with binoculars or video camera); taking notes or measurements; counting paces; sketching floor plans, etc.

If you are suspicious, call the University Police Department at 325-2121 on Starkville MSU campus or local police/sheriff office when in other areas. Simply dial 911 for any emergency situation.

Excerpts:

* MSU Police – “Preventing Campus Crime”

* Dept of Homeland Security <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/what-suspicious-activity>