



SAFETY ALERT

As you have probably heard, there have been several instances of suspicious men trying to lure children into vehicles or away from their homes as they are on their way to and from school. There have been three separate incidents within the last month. In the first incident, the person was described as a Hispanic male with black/brown hair wearing black gloves with red palms; driving a 2-door tan car with a black grill. In the second incident the person came to the home of a student posing as a teacher; he was described as a tall, chubby, brown-skinned Hispanic male with a beard, wearing glasses, and speaking Spanish. In the third incident the person was described as an Asian male in his early 30's. He was driving a white truck with the word "Royal" on the back of the truck. If you notice suspicious people around the Westwood and Simpson area, please call the Phoenix Police Department at 602-262-6151.

In the Alhambra School District, student safety is our top priority. Although we review safety precautions with students, it is imperative the school and parents team together. Whether students are walking to and from school, or even playing in the neighborhood, certain precautions should always be taken to ensure the safety of your child(ren). Please take a few minutes to reinforce the following "stranger danger" guidelines with your child(ren).

Advice for children:

- Always be aware of your surroundings and **report suspicious activity immediately** to a parent, responsible adult, teacher, school administrator, or police officer.
- If you are approached by a stranger and offered anything, say NO and tell an adult immediately.
- If a stranger approaches you at a bus stop, tell the bus driver immediately that the person is a stranger.
- Never walk alone. Always walk in pairs or with a group.
- Take well-traveled, open routes to school. Avoid alleys or poorly lit areas.
- Never go anywhere with someone you don't know.
- Do not speak to stranger; do not respond to calls or comments from strangers.
- Stay away from an adult who is asking children for help, as in seeking directions or looking for a lost puppy.
- Don't let a stranger into your home.
- If you have any fear of an adult stranger speaking to you, walk away.
- If someone grabs your wrist, make your arm spin like a windmill; yell as loud as you can; then run.
- If you're riding your bicycle, keep the bike between you and the adult.

Advice for parents:

- Keep young children at play outside your home or in the park within view.
- Make sure that outdoor activities are supervised.
- Teach your children that they can use any telephone, even a pay phone, to call 911.
- Teach your children that it's okay to say "no" to what they sense is wrong.
- Have your child photographed at least once a year, more often if under 5 years old.

I hope these tips are useful for your family. Please take the time to talk with your child(ren) about this important topic.

"Everyone Matters"