

	CLEARFIELD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / 9-1-1 Standard Operating Procedures	Initial:
	SOP #: Police 5 27	Revised: 10-2005
	Subject: Prowlers	

PROWLERS

- A. Prowler calls are often difficult calls to process for two reasons. First, the dispatchers will receive calls from individuals who believe there is a prowler around their home when they have heard unusual noises. Second, the dispatchers will receive calls when individuals actually see someone around their homes. The second type of call is very difficult for a police officer, as they are rarely able to respond undetected and effectively apprehend the individual. The prowler will most likely be more familiar with the area and be able to flee from the police.

- B. Dispatchers can play an important factor in whether or not an apprehension is made. By carefully questioning the caller the dispatcher can inform the responding officers of the suspect's presence and where around the home they might be. The dispatchers should be able to direct police officers to the scene more effectively by providing detailed descriptions of the home allowing the officers to respond undetected. The dispatchers may be able to aid in apprehension of the suspect by keeping the caller on the phone and relaying the suspects' direction of travel if the suspect flees the police upon their arrival.

- C. For incidents of prowlers the dispatchers will obtain as much information as possible to include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Specific location of house and suspects.
 - Was anyone actually seen or just noise heard?
 - If someone was seen, where were they seen?
 - Is the prowler or caller armed? With what?
 - Are there any potential hazards to the responding officers?

- D. The appropriate police department will be dispatched. The dispatch of further emergency service responders will be done at the request of the police department.

- E. The dispatchers will attempt to keep the caller on the line so the situation can be continually assessed and further information can be given to responding police units. The dispatcher will instruct the caller to put any weapons in their possession, if they are armed, away before answering the door upon police arrival.

- F. The dispatchers will run any license information that was obtained from the caller and will relay it to responding police officers (with the exception of PSP).

- G. BOLO or ATL information will be dispatched by radio as soon as possible. As time permits, the information will also be group faxed to county police departments.

- I. When there are multiple calls on the same incident where a prowler has been reported the Dispatchers are to obtain the name, telephone number and address of ***all callers***. Information on ***all*** persons who call regarding these types of incidents is of extreme importance and may be critical information that is needed to aid in the officer's ongoing investigation and if the case goes to court.