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### **Suspicious Activities:**

As we now anticipate moderation of the COVID prevention guidelines, consider that thieves will treat additional traffic to mask their search for easy opportunities. The core crime prevention activity of watching for and reporting suspicious activity is more relevant, especially if done by all rural folks.

What is suspicious activity? Most thieves use vehicles. Is the vehicle suspicious and what is suspicious activity? It is an activity reasonably inferred from the observation of the vehicle AND the occupants. For example, an older truck is not itself suspicious. If driven in the middle of the night, or parked in an unusual or remote area, with a tarp loosely over the load, or a windowless van without branding ... well you get the picture. Often it is not immediately obvious if a vehicle or occupant is nefarious. Getting additional information helps. Driving by, getting a closer look at the occupants, taking a picture, offering to provide directions, etc, will likely yield more relevant info. All is to be done with 100% safety in mind. Immediately report suspicious activity to the RCMP (Cochrane 403-932-2211, Airdrie 403-945-7267) and alert your neighbours.

Collectively we are making a difference with practices that reduce COVID community transmission. We need to do the same for suspicious activity. We want to project a clear and continuing practice that all rural residents are aware, informed and willing to identify and report suspicious activity. In rural areas, the residents are the first and best defence against rural crime.