



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

Press Release UPD case #16-2526

On August 29th in the early evening, a UPD officer was dispatched to a residence in the 200 block of Garrett Drive, regarding juveniles that had been followed home from school by an unknown person. While at the residence the officer spoke with the female students, who attend Frank Zeek School. The students told the officer that earlier today at around 2 to 2:30 pm, they were walking home from school headed North on Bush Street. Near the alley that connects to Lockwood Drive, the students reported seeing a man parked in a truck with the motor running. The man spoke to the girls in Spanish and made inappropriate comments to them. Both students were scared and ran to their nearby home. The students reported that after the incident on North Bush, they saw the subject and vehicle again driving near their home.

The subject was described as a Hispanic male adult, with very short black hair and crooked lower front teeth. The vehicle was described as a large white colored truck having a camper shell.

If anyone has any information regarding the above incident, please contact the Ukiah Police Department Detective Division at 463-6262.

The Ukiah Police Department is currently investigating the incident and working with the Ukiah Unified School District.

The Ukiah Police Department partnered with the Ukiah Unified School District to provide "Stranger Danger" classes, to help educate students with safety tips while going to and from school. These classes will be held at each school site in the coming weeks.

Parents should take time to remind students traveling to and from school of these safety tips:

1. *Do not talk to strangers.*
2. *Be aware of your surroundings (example: Don't focus your attention on your cell phone while walking home from school. Walk with your head up looking at your surroundings).*
3. *Stick together. There is safety in numbers.*
4. *Practice basic self – defense. A swift kick to the shins or private parts along with a loud scream will help get the attention of people in the area.*
5. *If you're at home alone – lock your doors.*
6. *If something happens to you, report it immediately!*

Parents can get additional information to help protect their children at:

<https://www.ukiahpolice.com/community-support/missing-and-exploited-children-resources/>

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.