

Crime Prevention Newsletter

BNSF Headquarters Resource Operations Center
Fort Worth, Texas

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Stopped by Police! What to do?

BNSF employs fully commissioned special agents to provide protection for its employees, lading, equipment, and property throughout its system. Everyday BNSF special agents who have with reasonable suspicion stop and interview people. Innocent people are often offended, angered, or both at being detained for questioning. Although this delay might be an inconvenience, this is a lawful and correct procedure for the agent.

If a BNSF agent or other police officer stops you, please follow these procedures:

- ❖ Place both hands on the steering wheel with your fingers spread apart in plain view of the agent if you are driving a vehicle; leave them in this position until the agent gives you further instructions.
- ❖ Do not make any sudden movements, such as reaching for your driver's license, wallet, or glove box, in your coat, pants pocket, or waistband until the agent has given you permission to do so.
- ❖ Do not carry illegal weapons or joke about having a weapon with you. If you are carrying a weapon under the Concealed Handgun License (CHL), advise the officer immediately, and do not reach for the weapon.
- ❖ Remain calm, be polite, and avoid being argumentative.
- ❖ Comply first and then you may seek an explanation from the officer or the officer's supervisor later.

The most common reasons that cause an agent to stop you are:

- ❖ You may be one of a few people walking around in the vicinity of a crime scene that has recently occurred.
- ❖ Your clothing may fit the description of those worn by the suspect of a crime.
- ❖ Someone may have pointed you out to an agent as being out of place and not wearing an ID.
- ❖ You may be acting in a manner that the officer considers "suspicious," and may act even more "suspicious" upon realizing the officer is observing you.

This information has been provided for the agent's and your safety, as well as providing information on police procedures.

This article contains information from the Birmingham Ala., police department.



Have questions or comments? Contact the ROCC Headquarters Crime Prevention Specialist Team: R. Carnes, B. Contreras, J. Edwards, or M. Galindo at 593-7200.