

National Resource & Training Services

Private Investigation Seminars

Surveillance and Stakeout Techniques

Presented by

Ron Moore, CPT, CLS



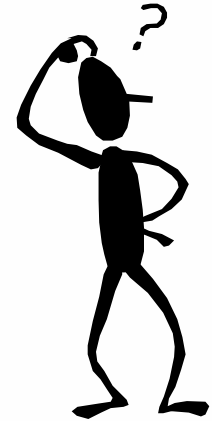
National Resource & Training Services

P.O. Box 1033, Cleveland, Tennessee 37364-1003

1-866-572-0142

Answer these questions

- ✓ **Have you ever lost the car that you were following?**
- ✓ **Have you ever been discovered watching someone?**
- ✓ **Have you ever ran out of gas?**
- ✓ **Have you ever followed the wrong car?**
- ✓ **Have you ever watched the wrong house?**
- ✓ **Have you ever watched a house and no one was home?**
- ✓ **Have you been pulled over by the police while conducting surveillance or a stakeout?**
- ✓ **Have you ever fell asleep and the person you were watching left?**
- ✓ **Has everything gone right and then your camera dies?**



Surveillance

**A keeping watch over; Superintendence;
Oversight**

3 steps to better surveillance & stakeouts

- **Planning:** What you do before you leave
- **Structure:** Patterns of operations
- **Flexibility:** The ability to adjust to the situations



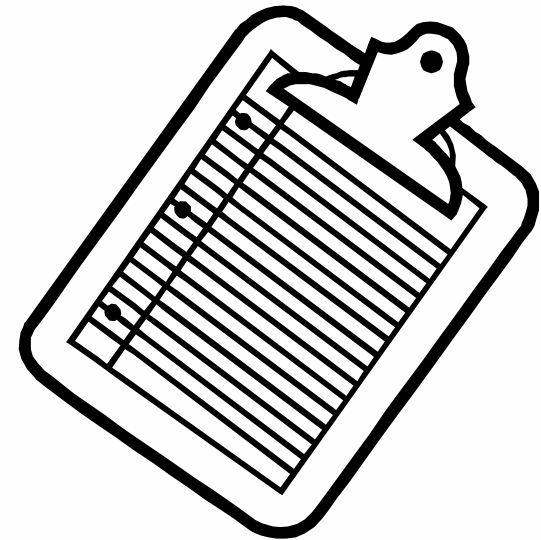
Planning

- I. Know the purpose of your surveillance**
- II. Gather Information**
- III. Check equipment**
- IV. Format disguises and pretext**
- V. Work schedules and switch offs**
- VI. Adjust scenarios**



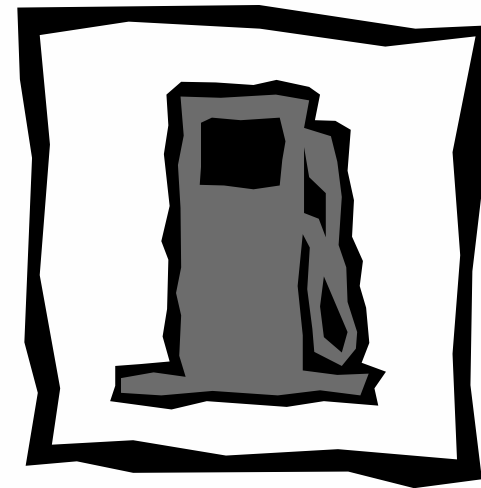
Know the purpose of your surveillance

- ✓ **Know the client's names and family**
- ✓ **What is the goal**
- ✓ **What do you need to meet the goals**
- ✓ **Who else knows you are involved**
- ✓ **Know what to expect**



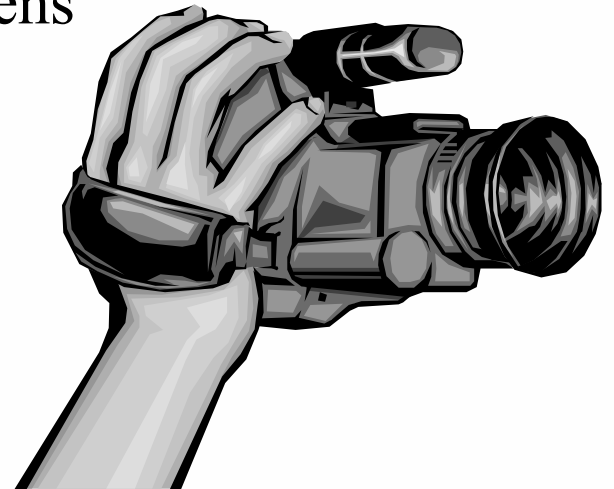
Gather Information

- **Names, nick names, maiden names**
- **Where do they work**
- **Friends, co-workers and relatives and their addresses**
- **Car or cars, do they ride with friends, borrow cars**
- **Hobbies (ie: bowling, softball, genealogy)**
- **Favorite restaurants or pubs**
- **Where do they buy gas**
- **Things they do consistently**



Check Equipment

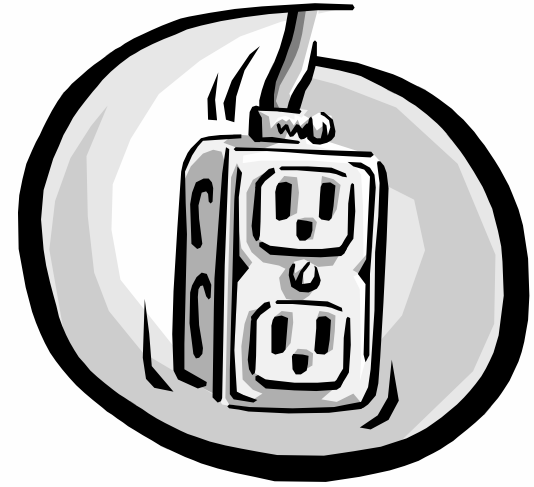
- Check camera equipment: Is everything there?
- Do you have film? Do you have extra film?
- Are all batteries charged? Do you have extra batteries?
- Fill up with gas
- Do you have a cell phone or radio? Are they charged?
- Hand held recorder or notebooks and pens
- Disguises, signs, props
- AC/DC Power Inverter



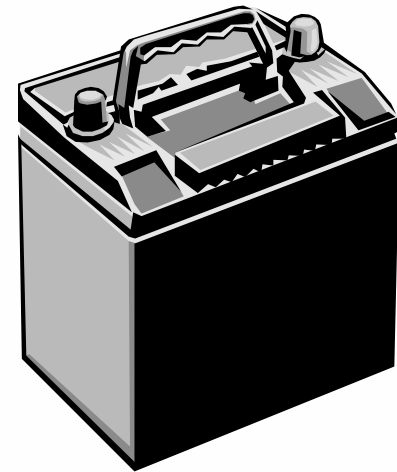


Power Inverter – different sizes for more equipment

WARNING !!!!!!!



- **This is real electricity**
- **Shock potential**
- **Produces heat**
- **Drain on your battery system**
- **Easy to overload**



Typical Power Requirements

Hi/Fi Stereo 4-Head VCR = .36 amps - 40 watts

CD Changer/Mini System = .55 amps - 60 watts

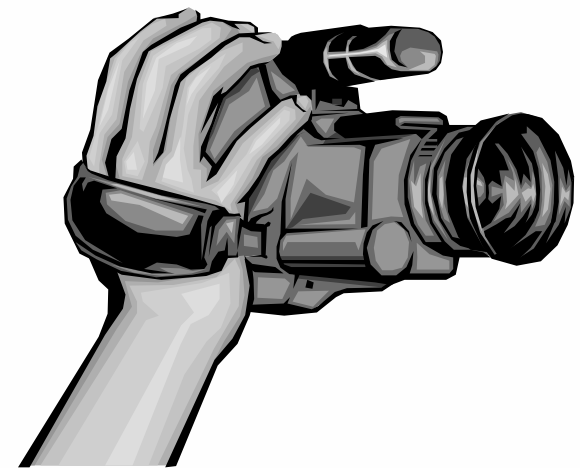
9" Color TV/Radio Cassette Combo = .59 amps - 65 watts

13" Color TV = .65 amps - 72 watts

Camcorder (6v. 1200 mA) = .21 amps - 23 watts

Cellular Telephone = .23 amps - 25 watts

Laptop Computer = .30 amps - 43 watts



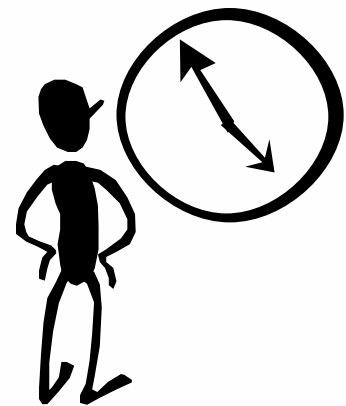
Format Disguises and Pre-text

- **Have your pretext planned and detailed**
- **Pretext cannot include real companies or people**
- **Print fake ID cards, business cards, stationary,**
- **Use magnetic signs**
- **Hats, shirts, etc...**
- **Vans are good – tinted windows**
- **Hanging clothes in back seat**
- **Have blankets or papers to hide cameras and recording equipment**



Work Schedules

- **If more than one person, what is the schedule**
- **How do you switch off**
- **If one person, how long can they stay without a break**
- **Does it require constant surveillance**
- **When is the best time to watch**
- **How much information do you need**
- **Prefer to your pre-planning notes and goals**
- **How do you work it around other cases**



Adjust Scenarios

- ❖ **Rural to urban**
- ❖ **Day to night**
- ❖ **Moving to stationary**
- ❖ **Changing surroundings**
- ❖ **From your car to inside a building**
- ❖ **Season changing**
- ❖ **Weather conditions**



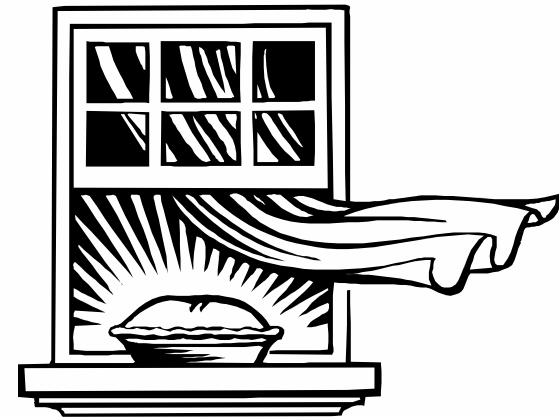
Patterns of operations

- **Basics for all surveillances and stakeouts**
- **Following Cars**
- **Watching a person at a house**
- **Watching a person in a public place**
- **Watching a person at a business**



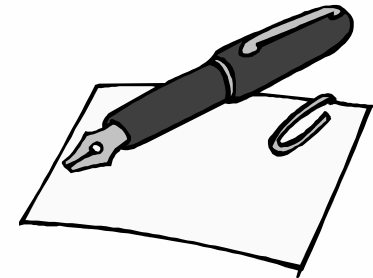
Basics for all surveillance

- ✓ **Develop a scan pattern**
- ✓ **Record and note everything**
 - 1. Open Windows**
 - 2. Papers in the driveway**
 - 3. Toys in the yard**
 - 4. Garbage and when picked up**
 - 5. Lights and sounds**
 - 6. Cars**
 - 7. People**

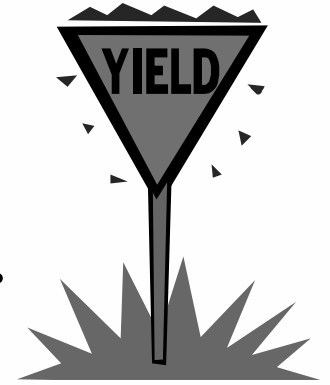


Basics for all surveillance

- ✓ **Record the times and make entries often**
- ✓ **Maintain a Log system**
 1. **Notebook and pencil**
 2. **Tape recorder**
- ✓ **Record all activity. May be important later.**
- ✓ **Do not park your car facing the object of your surveillance**
- ✓ **Do not smoke or attempt not to smoke**
- ✓ **Do not leave engine running**



Following Cars



- **The hardest and most dangerous activities as a P.I.**
- **Never follow too closely: do not tail gate**
- **Use a buffer vehicle between you**
- **Your car should not be a Hummer or a red sports car**
- **You can not break the traffic laws**
- **When using two follow vehicles, switch out the lead vehicles**
- **On multi-lane road, drive in an opposite lane**
- **For night time surveillance: study the tail light formation**

Following Cars - Problems

- **4 way Stop signs and traffic lights**
- **Rural-curvy-hilly roads**
- **Heavy traffic**
- **Very fast drivers or slow drivers**
- **People who are suspicious**
- **You getting pulled over by the police**
- **Gas**
- **Fatigue**



Watching a Person at a House

- **Look for all signs of activities**
- **Listen for sounds**
- **Make sure they are at home**
- **Look for changing light patterns**
- **Plain view is okay – super strong lens could be invasion of privacy**
- **Your license does not give you the permission to trespass**
- **Today's society is concerned with security**
- **Use your props and gimmicks**



Watching a person in a public place

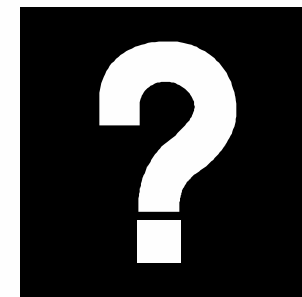
- **Once again, beware of public awareness**
- **Certain places might be offensive to video or photograph**
- **Use covert camera equipment – but camcorders are accepted part of society**
- **Try to blend – do not act suspicious**
- **Avoid parking in dark alleys or away from other cars**
- **Have your pretext ready**
- **Do you notify police or security?**
- **Don't forget to continue to log your activities**

Watching a person at a business

- Same as watching houses or public places
- Do you notify security or police?
- Small towns, relatives work in the same place
- You may be monitored
- Know shift change schedules/lunch schedules
- Remember trespassing rules
- If in a bar, everyone know the regulars
- In a restaurant, don't order a big meal

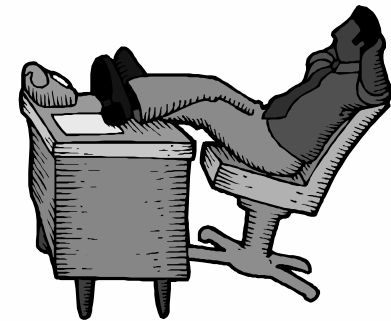


Flexibility



- ✓ **What do you do when you are discovered?**
- ✓ **What do you do when you lose a vehicle?**
- ✓ **What if there is not a good location to observe from?**
- ✓ **What if you are hassled by the police?**
- ✓ **What if you followed the wrong car or watched the wrong person?**
- ✓ **What do you do if you found you did not get the shot?**
- ✓ **What do you do if you see your client around the area?**

“ Good judgment comes from experience; experience comes from bad judgment.”



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