

Antifascist Toolkit:

Best Practices for Tips and Info Sharing

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ROSE CITY ANTIFA

Best Practices for Tips and Info Sharing

We often get asked questions like “what kind of information should I include when I send tips?” or “how do I know whether what I’m sharing on Twitter is valuable to the community?” In order to answer these questions we’ve put this zine together with helpful tips for both collecting information on fascists and their activities as well as best practices for sharing that information with others.

Part I: What makes a good tip?

Concrete physical and descriptive details of both the individual(s) in question as well as their behavior, the time, and the place is the gold standard for information gathering. Calling someone a Proud Boy/fash/chud is never more useful than actual descriptive details about the individual you’re identifying.

When thinking about how to describe or recall someone’s demeanor or behavior, examine what your initial reaction was to seeing them and how it made you feel. Then assess what it might have reminded you of to provoke that reaction. Did the person seem out of place? Why?



In Conclusion

If you feel that what you have to say is really important, even if you don’t have every detail, you should absolutely still share it. Just let people know the limitations of your knowledge. It’s better for everybody involved if you communicate exactly what you know, even if that’s not that much, rather than trying to make conclusions based on partial information. Being a good community resource doesn’t mean you need to be the “all-knowing” authority!

**Don't
Say**



"chuds are here!"
"ALERT! two Proud Boys with guns are headed towards you!"
"a couple of fash are being aggro and trying to start shit with us"



**Do
Say**

"two larger white men, both carrying rifles, headed towards our march. one has a camo mask and baseball hat wearing a white t-shirt. the other has a beard, is in a khaki button-down and is wearing an american flag as a cape. they seem like they're just taking a look but keep an eye out for them"

Sometimes it is because the person's behavior seemed out of control and they are someone you felt potential danger from. This definitely is relevant to your safety in that moment but does not necessarily make them a fascist. We here at RCA aren't just cops for people who hate cops.

Also, other than maybe the name of a specific, recognized fascist, the most pressing information is almost always what the person was doing, when, where, and whether or not they are still doing it.

-Good Tips Cheatsheet-

Our best tips include as much of the following as possible:

- A picture if you have one (please be safe!)
- The date and time the subject matter was seen
- Exact location if possible (address, cross streets, and/or nearby landmarks)
- Physical descriptions of persons involved, if relevant (height, build, hair/eye/skin color, hair length, tattoos/piercings/notable physical features, clothing, etc.)
- What the person was doing, when, where, (especially if it was actively threatening or invasive) and whether or not they are still doing it
- Description of any relevant behaviors, e.g. hanging out with a known fascist, flyering for a fascist group, using hate speech
- If reporting a car: color, type of car, make, model, license plate number, notable features like bumper stickers, etc.



Having trouble remembering details? Make a game out of it!

Remembering things in the heat of the moment is hard! When you need to describe someone it can make it easier to start at the top and work your way down!

Hat or no hat? What length and color of hair?

Were they short? Average height? Tall?

Any facial hair? A goatee or mustache?

Did their shirt have a collar?

What was that symbol on their shirt?

Were they younger or older?

Did they have tattoos on their arms?

Shorts or pants? Were they fatigues or jeans?

Sneakers? Boots? Pumps? What color?



Also, be aware that people might want to inform their own close community of an imminent threat to their person, before you tell the entire world on their behalf. Unless what you've seen is a clear and urgent threat to the safety of others, we would strongly suggest taking 5-10 minutes before sharing information publically.

During that 5-10 minutes, there's a few things you can do that will help everyone make the most of whatever information you present.

1. Get in touch with a friend/loved one and tell them about what just happened to you and how it made you feel. It can be hard at times to distinguish between the feeling of needing to tell someone and the feeling of needing to tell everyone. Assess with them whether or not you feel like you still need to tell "the public" and what info you can actually share.
2. Do the exercise we showed you on the last few pages to get the most you can remember about what you've seen and compile that into a brief, informative note you might be willing to share. If you're able, have someone else look it over before you share.
3. If the thing/person you saw was ambiguous or you aren't quite sure what it was you saw (or if it even happened at all), look around for corroborating accounts. Does that well-known fash still have that haircut? Did anyone else see that car?



Part 2: How should I share information about fascists with others?

There is no guidebook for how to be a community information resource and lots of different groups do it their own way. All we really want to do is talk about what guides our own decision-making processes around sharing information publically.

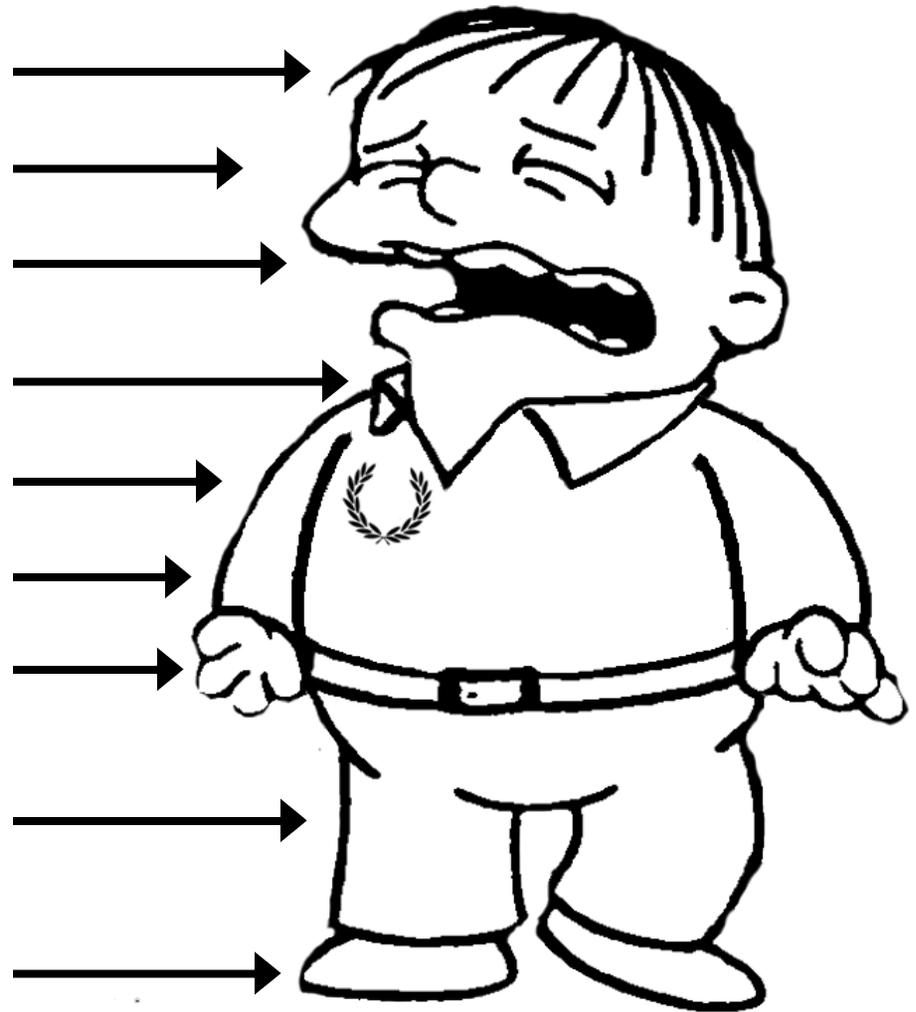
We view “tip”-style or threat-related information put out for our community as something we share to provide people with actionable details they can use to keep themselves and others safe. There’s lots of ways information can be actionable and different people might use it different ways.

“Stay away from here, there’s Proud Boys!” can maybe be useful for people who aren’t already “here” or are but have the ability to leave.

If you’re already “here” but don’t know who to look for and you haven’t been given more details? Unhelpful. If you work or live “here” and do not have a choice about leaving, not only is having no description of a potential threat to your safety a problem but having everyone who might be able to help suddenly leave is a problem too.

So not only do we try to provide people with actionable information but we try to make sure that the actionable options that we present to people center the needs of the most vulnerable in that situation.

Try to write down as much as you can!



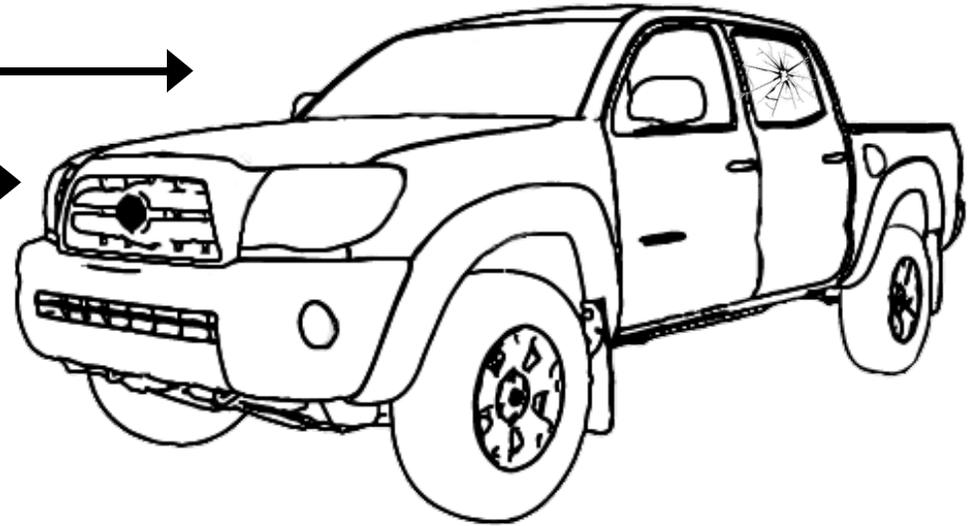
When reporting on a car the model and license plate can be valuable information but a number of other identifying traits can actually be more useful to folks keeping an eye out for it!

Describe from top to bottom again!

Was it a Van? Sedan? SUV? Pickup?

Was the car older or newer?

How big were the tires? Was it lifted?



What kinds of bumper stickers did it have?

What color was it?

What state were the license plates? What was the number?



* One thing anyone can do is look up a plate number on one of many free online databases and find out if there is a car currently registered with that number, as well as what make and model that car is. This can be useful for confirming you got a plate number right.

