

- Staying calm and consistent is important, even if the situation feels stressful or intimidating.

COERCION

- Police may try to get you to talk using different approaches. They may act friendly or sympathetic to lower your guard, or they may claim they already know what happened in order to pressure you into confirming details.
- They might suggest that cooperating will make things easier for you, or switch between being aggressive and being helpful to create confusion.

- These tactics are designed to get information from you. The safest response is to remain calm, say as little as possible, and not engage beyond asserting your rights.

INFILTRATORS

- Sometimes individuals may try to gather information or push situations in ways that increase risk.
- This can include: talking about illegal actions, encouraging others to break the law, or asking detailed personal questions that are not necessary.
- Someone may also try to identify leadership, create conflict within a group, or escalate situations unnecessarily.

- If you are not free to leave, you should clearly state that you do not consent to a search and that you want a lawyer.
- You should also say that you are exercising your right to remain silent, and then stop speaking. Continuing to talk after invoking your right to silence can weaken that protection.
- Depending on local laws, you may be required to provide your name or be required to provide your name or identification, but beyond that, you do not need to answer questions.

WHAT IF I AM DETAINED OR ARRESTED?

- You may face resistance even when what you are doing is legal. Don't let it deter you.
- You may be accused of doing something you didn't do, or get in trouble even during legal actions.

AWARENESS OF LOCAL LAWS

- Be aware of the city, county, state, and federal laws.
- Examples: property lines, trespassing, noise ordinances, permits.
- Educate yourself and be prepared.
- Different locations may have different rules, and what is allowed in one place may not be allowed in another.
- Understanding these differences helps you avoid unnecessary risk.

- It is important to stay aware of these patterns and avoid sharing information with people who do not need to know it.
- Be mindful of how you use digital tools. Avoid using your legal name on public platforms when possible, and keep your profiles private.
- Limit what you share online, especially anything that could connect you to actions or other people.
- Use secure communication tools when appropriate, but remember that no digital communication is completely risk-free if devices are

TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

This training is intended as a guide; not legal advice.

SECTION 1: SECURITY BASICS

What is security culture and why is it important?

Security culture is creating an environment that keeps yourself and other activists safe.

EXAMPLES OF GOOD SECURITY CULTURE:

- The most important thing: **DON'T TALK TO THE POLICE.**
- Don't snitch. Don't share information with anyone who doesn't need to know.
- Don't ask questions about things you weren't involved in.

UNDERSTANDING THE LEGAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ACTIVISM

Levels of Risk:

- Green**: legal, low risk
- Yellow**: some legal risk, tickets or court summons possible
- Orange**: considerable legal risk; substantial risk of arrest if caught
- Red**: high legal risk; definite arrest if caught and serious consequences

SECTION 2: REGARDING THE LAW

- Park out of sight from the target.
- Do not allow staff or security to follow you to your car.

- Protect your identity:
- use an alias
- wear a mask
- keep social media private
- Secure communication:
- use signal to communicate,
- don't ever discuss sensitive information via technology,
- even on signal
- Don't ever say anyone's name or alias.
- Don't discuss actions.
- Don't share time and location unless organizers already have.
- Don't speak to the police or in front of the police!

SECURITY CULTURE FOR ACTIVISTS

REMEMBER:

- Security culture depends on consistency.
- Don't talk to the police.
- Don't share information unless it is necessary.
- Protect your identity and be aware of your surroundings.
- Know the laws where you are and understand the risks involved in your actions.
- Leave when you are told to leave, and avoid escalating situations unnecessarily.
- Staying calm, aware, and disciplined helps protect both you and the people around you.

- an important part of maintaining security.
- Being mindful of what you store and how you communicate reduces the chance of exposing yourself or others.
- Even small pieces of information can become important when combined, so limiting what exists digitally is a key part of staying safe.
- Think carefully before you type, share, or save anything.
- Disable Face ID or fingerprint unlock before an action, as law enforcement may be able to use these to unlock your device without your consent.

- accessed. Reducing your digital footprint helps protect both you and others.
- Your devices can store more information than you realize. Messages, search history, and saved data can all become sources of information if accessed.
- Be cautious about what you type, store, or sync to the cloud.
- Disabling features that automatically save or predict text can reduce unintended data storage.
- Thinking about what information exists on your devices, and minimizing it where possible, is

- ## HOW DO I SPEAK TO THE POLICE?
- Generally, you should not. Avoid the police and do not engage with them unless absolutely necessary.
 - The safest option is to say nothing at all. Even small or casual statements can be used against you, and answering questions can unintentionally provide information that connects you to actions or other people. Remaining silent protects both you and others.
 - If you are not assigned a specific role, such as a police liaison, it is best to disengage completely and not participate in any conversation.

TRESPASSING

Disclaimer: This is a guide to how trespassing usually works. Please check city, state and local laws.

- Trespassing usually means entering or remaining on land or in a building without permission.
- Examples: crossing property lines, refusing to leave when asked.
- Levels of Offense:
 - Civil trespass: owner asks you to leave. (*minor infraction, often just removal or fines*)
 - Criminal trespass: you refuse to leave or violate a formal notice (*misdemeanor or felony depending on intent or prior warnings*)

- to sign, acknowledging you've been told not to return.
- Refusing to sign does not prevent the notice from being valid.
- Once a trespass notice is issued, returning to the property can result in arrest for criminal trespass.
- The first incident is often treated as a warning.
- Returning after a trespass notice is where arrest and prosecution are more likely.
- Repeated visits to the same property can increase risk, even if you leave before police arrive.
- Leaving before police arrive does not erase the incident.

- You are trespassing if you pass DO NOT ENTER signs or are verbally told to leave and don't.
- Once you are told to leave, you should leave immediately. Staying after a clear warning increases the risk of being charged.
- If it is a location with public access, the property owner or their agent has to tell you directly that you're not allowed there.
- If you refuse to leave, you are committing trespass.
- In many states, police issue a formal trespass warning or notice at the owner's request. This is a written document that you may be asked