



NATHPO

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS
P.O. Box 19189 • Washington, D.C. 20036-9189 • Phone: (202) 628-8476 • Fax: (202) 628-2241 • www.nathpo.org

Looted and Damaged Archaeological Sites Checklist

If the violator is *not* present:

- This is a Crime Scene, DO NOT touch anything.
- Try not to walk in the area, your footprints will become part of the crime scene.
- Notify law enforcement as quickly as possible.
- If you see items from the archaeological site, leave them for the law enforcement person to process as evidence. The collection of evidence is very meticulous so as to not contaminate the evidence and also to establish a chain of custody that will stand up in court.

If the violator is present:

- If you are not in a safe area, leave the area.
- Report all potential violations to law enforcement as soon as safely possible.
- Observe, document and photograph to accurately describe what you have just witnessed if in a safe area.
- Observe the tools or other equipment in detail. Do you see any artifacts?
- Do you see any tools (shovels, screens, or other equipment)?
- Do you see any animals with them (i.e., dog)?
- Do you see any guns?

- Observe the suspect(s) vehicle in detail. What does it look like?
- Is it a pick-up truck, car, SUV?
- Do you know the vehicle maker (e.g., Ford)?
- Can you get the license plate number?

- Observe the suspect(s) in detail How far to the nearest town?
- What are the routes to the site?
- Are there escape routes?
- Are there areas where law enforcement will be able to observe from?

- Observe the suspect(s) in detail. Do you know the person(s)?
- What do he/she/they look like?
- Can you describe them?
- How many are present?
- What are they wearing?
- What are they doing?
- Are they smoking?
- Are they dirty?

###

NATHPO is a not-for-profit membership association of tribal governments that are committed to preserving, rejuvenating, and improving the status of tribal cultures and cultural practices by supporting Native languages, arts, dances, music, oral traditions, cultural properties, tribal museums, tribal cultural centers, and tribal libraries.