

Crime Prevention/Safety Tips

Personal Safety

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- If you see something, say something.
- Try to stay in well-lit areas.
- Walk confidently at a steady pace on the side of the street facing traffic.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes, and alleys.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom to move.
- Don't walk alone at night and always avoid areas where there are few people.
- Be careful when people stop and ask you for directions; always reply from a distance.
- If you are in trouble, attract help in any way that you can. Scream, yell for help, or yell, "fire!"
- Keep your head. Stay as calm as possible, think rationally, and evaluate your resources and options.
- If ever attacked, go to a safe place and call the police. The sooner you make the report, the greater the chances the attacker will be caught.

Home Safety

- Check the identification of any sales or service people before letting them in.
- Don't let any stranger in your home when you are alone.
- Never give the impression that you are alone, if strangers telephone or come to the door.
- If you come home and find a door open or signs of a forced entry, don't go in. Call the police from the nearest phone.
- Keep written records, with serial numbers if available, of all furniture, jewelry, bicycles, and electronic products including mobile phones. If possible, keep these records in a safe deposit box or fireproof safe.
- Secure sliding glass door locks.
- Don't hide spare keys in mailboxes, planters, or under doormats.

Vehicle Safety

- Close all windows, lock all doors, and take the keys with you.
- Never hide a second set of keys anywhere on your car.
- Never leave your car's engine running, even if you will only be gone for a minute.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Activate any antitheft devices you have.
- Push or recline your passenger seat forward; if you return to your car and the passenger seat has been returned to its normal position, chances are someone has entered your vehicle.
- When approaching your vehicle, have your keys in hand.
- Before you invest in any alarms; check with several established companies and decide what level of security fits your needs.

Travel Safety

- If you do travel alone, leave your route and destination times with family or friends.
- Keep your car locked at all times.
- Keep the windows rolled up so that a person cannot reach inside. If confronted by someone on foot, drive away immediately, if safe to do so.
- Make sure your car is in good working order and has plenty of gas before you drive.
- Don't leave packages or valuables in plain sight in your car; keep them in your trunk.
- If you are being followed by another car, honk your horn and drive to the closest public place such as a police or fire station, restaurant, or gas station. Never go home if you think you are being followed.
- If you are involved in a minor accident, do not get out of the car until fire, police, or medical assistance arrives. This is a favorite ploy of kidnappers and sexual battery offenders.