

SAFETY ON THE STREETS



BASICS

- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings no matter where you are.
- Stand tall; let your appearance send the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going.
- Always trust your instincts. If people or locations are making you uneasy, leave or stay away.
- Know your neighborhood. Be aware of the locations of police and fire stations, and hospitals. Also, know what restaurants and stores in your area are open late.

- Don't wear restrictive clothing or shoes.
- Be prepared with your car or house key before you reach the door.

DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE TO SAVE YOUR PROPERTY

If someone tried to rob you or take your car do not resist. Report the crime to the police. Make sure to describe your attacker, remember specifics such as approximate height, weight, and age. Also, gender hair color, and any unusual or identifying features.

- If you think that you are being followed, cross the street or change direction. Head for a restaurant, open store, or other public location.
- If you have to work late, make sure that you are not in the building alone. If you leave after dark, ask a colleague or security guard escort you to your car or transit stop.
- If you go out to a late night event, try to take a friend. Most assaults happen to people who are alone.
- If you think that you are being followed, cross the street. If you continue to suspect that you are being followed, be prepared to defend yourself by screaming and running for someplace.

BUSES AND TRAINS

- Use well-lit stops. If your stop is not well-lit or if it is isolated, have someone meet you there.
- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
- If someone harasses you, be loud and bring attention to the situation. If you need to, use the emergency button on the bus or train.
- Pay attention to who gets off on your stop with you. If you think that you are being followed, head somewhere that you can get help: a restaurant or open store.

IN A CAR

- Make sure that your car is in good enough condition to get you to and from your destination. Make sure that you have enough gas for your round trip.
- Always keep your car secured when you drive and park, including rolling up your windows and keeping the doors locked.
- Try to park in areas with other cars that are close to your final destination. Avoid isolated areas. Be aware of your surroundings in parking garages.
- Before getting into your parked car, check for uninvited passengers in the back seat.
- If you think that you are being followed, head to the nearest police or fire station, gas station, or other open business where you can get help. Do not go home.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers. Do not accept rides from people that you do not know.
- Leave space in between you and the car in front of you when stopped at a light or sign. If anyone approaches you in a threatening manner, be prepared to pull away from the situation.

ON FOOT

- Stay in well-lit areas and on heavily traveled streets. Avoid routes that take you through parking lots, alleys, or other dark vacant areas.
- Don't display large amounts of cash or other valuables such as jewelry.
- When carrying a purse hold it close to your body. Always carry a wallet in an inside coat or front pocket, never in a back pant pocket.
- Use ATM's during the day if possible. Be ready with card in hand as you approach the machine, do not linger longer than necessary. Do not approach an ATM if you are uneasy of the surroundings.