



Personal Safety Tips

Street Smarts



The best way to reduce the risk of being a victim of crime is by taking sensible precautions. Most people already do this as part of their everyday lives. Here are a few recommendations that you can take to protect yourself, your family, and your friends.

- **Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, wherever you are.**
- **Stand tall and walk confidently.**
- **Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation leave quickly.**

TIPS FOR WALKERS

- Choose busy streets and avoid passing by vacant lots, alleys, or deserted construction sites. At night, stick to well-lighted areas only.
- Don't walk or jog alone. Take a friend or neighbor along if possible.
- Get to know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Find out what stores are open late and where the police and fire stations are located.
- Carry your purse close to your body, and keep a firm grip on it. Carry a wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.
- Don't overload yourself with packages, and avoid wearing shoes or clothing that restricts your movement.
- Carry a whistle or other sound device in case of an emergency.
- Carry a cell phone with you.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Always lock your car and take the keys, even if you'll only be gone for a short time.
- When you drive, be on the lookout for any problems that affect the neighborhood's well-being like, abandoned cars, missing signs, malfunctioning traffic lights, reckless drivers, or poor street lighting. Follow up and report any problems to the appropriate authorities.
- Keep your car in good running condition to avoid breakdowns.
- If your car does break down, raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the street-side door handle. Stay in the locked car. If someone stops to help, ask him or her to phone for assistance.
- Park in a well-lighted area that will still be well lighted when you return.
- Be alert when using enclosed parking garages. If you must leave a key, leave only the ignition key with a lot attendant.
- Always carry an emergency kit in your car. It should contain a flashlight, flares, first aid products, and a 72-hour supply of food and water.
- Never pick up hitchhikers!
- Carry a cell phone with you.
- Before getting into your car, look underneath and inside it.



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