

Some Personal Safety Tips.....

Safety on the Street

- Be Aware
 - Be Assertive (Don't look or walk like a victim)
 - Trust Your Instincts
 - Be a concerned citizen
- Remember: Alcohol & drugs can impair judgment and make you look like an easy target.

Safety on Public Transportation

- While waiting for a bus or streetcar, stand near others.
- Stand in lighted areas while waiting for transportation.
- Be aware of those around you on the bus or streetcar. Notify the driver of anyone looking suspicious.
- Be aware of those who exit the bus or streetcar with you. If you feel you're being followed, go to the nearest building and get assistance.
- Only use well-lit streets to reach your final destination.

Vehicle Safety

- Always lock your vehicle and keep windows closed.
- Remove all personal items.
- Use Anti-theft devices.
- Never leave keys in the ignition.
- Always curb the wheels.
- Park in well lighted areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Report a crime in progress at once.

Sexual Assault Prevention

If you are attacked, evaluate the situation and look for ways to escape. You may avoid rape by talking, acting crazy, or fighting back. Whatever tactic you use, act quickly and decisively to throw the attacker off guard.

After an attack:

GO TO A SAFE PLACE CALL THE POLICE

Preserve evidence. Don't shower or douche; blood and semen are important evidence. Don't change your clothes or disturb the scene of the crime.

Get medical care. Medical attention is vital! The Sexual Trauma Center at Central Emergency Hospital provides free care for rape victims and offers pregnancy prevention and venereal disease treatment. A trained counselor will offer sensitive support.

Home Safety

- All doors in your home leading to the outside should have deadbolt locks with one-inch throws.
- When away at night, leave a light burning.
- Do not leave a key over a door or under a mat.

- Your garage door should have a padlock.
- For further information on securing your residence, consult the SAFE brochure, Residential Burglary.
- When leaving on a trip:
 - Stop all deliveries.
 - Connect a light to a timer.
 - Notify the police and have a neighbor check your home periodically.
 - Have someone maintain your lawn.
- If you see a suspicious person, car, or situation, contact the police.
- NEVER leave a message on an answering machine indicating no one is home.

Apartment Safety

- Do not permit strangers to enter the building when you are leaving or entering.
- Never "buzz" anyone into the building unless you know them. Refer strangers to the manager.
- Don't leave keys under mats, over doors, or in mail slots. When you move in, change the cylinder of the lock.
- Women should not list their full names, only their initials at the door (e.g., M. Smith rather than Mary Smith).
- Give your apartment an occupied sound or look.
- Report suspicious strangers, sounds, or actions to police immediately (533-0123). Then notify the manager and neighbors.

Neighborhood Watch

Help make your neighborhood a safer, friendlier place to live. There's safety in numbers and power through working as a group. You'll get to know your neighbors better, and working with them you can create a more united community and reduce crime by implementing crime prevention techniques. A SAFE crime prevention specialist will help bring you and your neighbors together to learn how to work effectively with the police and other agencies and organizations to meet your needs.

Personal Safety Presentation

A SAFE crime prevention specialists will come to your home, office, church, club, or school to share personal safety tips that are geared to your specific interests and needs.

Examples: "Street Smarts"
Older Adult Safety
Safety for the Disabled
Children's Safety
Sexual Assault Prevention
Safety in the Workplace

If you would like to receive more information about SAFE, start a Neighborhood Watch, or schedule a safety presentation, call 673-SAFE or visit www.sfsafe.org.

