



PERSONAL SAFETY & ROBBERY AWARENESS



The crime of robbery is usually motivated by financial gain and is carried out by an individual(s) seeking to cause fear and control of a victim(s). In most cases, a weapon will be involved. The victim may be pre-selected or chosen by random opportunity. The victim may be in their own surroundings, such as a home invasion, or in public areas, such as a parking lot or shopping center. While not all criminal contact can be avoided, there are some crime prevention practices which can greatly reduce your chances of being victimized.

Basic personal safety / robbery prevention would include:

- ! Remaining audibly and visually aware of your surroundings.
- ! Trusting your gut instincts when seeing or hearing something out of the ordinary or suspicious.
- ! Not allowing yourself to be in close contact with someone who may be trying to get your attention or engage you in conversation.
- ! Not allowing individuals you do not know into your home or car.
- ! Not displaying targeted items such as cash, jewelry, exposed wallets, etc.
- ! Trying to be with another person when doing errands or being out - especially at night.
- ! Not traveling in areas you are unfamiliar with.
- ! Be cautious of groups of individuals who may be paying attention to you.
- ! Being aware of who is around you and what they are doing and paying attention to.
- ! Being aware of fake emergencies or reasons people might give you to make you feel they need help. You can place an emergency call for someone and still limit your personal contact with them depending upon the circumstances.



Keeping in mind that a robber can be just about anywhere, looking like a threat or an ordinary person, it is wise to be cautious of those situations and individuals you can not verify. Pre-planning for different situations can help you have clearer plan of action. If a confrontation is unavoidable, remain calm, cooperative, and willing to part with your valuables to protect your well-being. Do not argue, resist, or escalate violence. Be aware of methods used to gain your attention and cause you to put your guard down. **Be alert at all times.**

PERSONAL SAFETY CHECKLIST - Answer Yes or No

1. Do you always asks a salesman, deliveryman or repairman to show his ID card before
2. Do you have and use deadbolt locks on your doors and special locks on windows?
3. For apartment dwellers: do you make it a habit to check the entrance foyer and self-service elevators for strangers before going inside?
4. Do you always keep lights on inside and at the entrance when you go out at night?
5. Do you consider it an imposition to ask anyone who drives you home at night to wait until you're safely inside?
6. When someone calls you and asks, "What number is this?", do you tell them?
7. Are you likely to accept a needed ride from a harmless-looking person you've just met casually at a party, a class or a meeting?
8. Do you keep your car in good running order with plenty of gas in the tank at all times?
9. If your car were to break down on a highway, would you accept help from a stranger?

10. Would you stop to help a disabled driver if you were alone?
11. Do you always park in brightly lighted areas and lock your car even if you'll only be gone a few minutes?
12. Do you ever leave more than your ignition key with the attendant in a parking lot or service station?
13. If you suddenly realize that a car has been following you for some time, would you head straight home?
14. When walking, do you make it a habit to stay in well-populated areas, walk briskly and act alert and self-assured?
15. If attacked by a mugger on the street, would you immediately hand over your purse or wallet?
16. Do you observe who and what are around you at all times?
17. Do you follow your *hunches* or *gut instincts*?
18. When you walk, do you do so on well traveled, well lit streets?
19. Do you avoid walking alone, especially at night?
20. Do you walk in the middle of the sidewalk, avoiding parked cars, alleys and doorways?
21. Do you walk facing traffic?
22. Do you avoid taking short cuts, especially through vacant lots?
23. Do you avoid obvious signs of trouble when you see them?
24. Do you carry more valuables than necessary?
25. While at work, are wallet and purses kept in secure areas?
26. Do you always have money for bus or cab fare and telephone?
27. Do you wait for public transportation in populated, well lighted areas?
28. Do you participate in a Neighborhood Watch program?
29. Do your family members keep a low profile as to travel plans and day-to-day activities?
30. Do you watch for and know how to recognize suspicious person, vehicles or activities?
31. Do family members know what to do if they suspect an intruder has broken into your residence?
32. Do you immediately report suspicious persons, vehicles or activities?
33. If you have firearms in your home, are they properly secured and in good condition?
34. Have family members been trained in the use of firearms if they are in the home?
35. Are door locks changed when keys are lost or stolen?
36. Are keys or tags identified with names and/or addresses?
37. When working late, do you make it a point to relocate your vehicle to a parking place closer to the building exit?
38. Before entering or upon leaving an elevator, do you scan the area?
39. Do you have to fumble through your purse or pockets to find keys or do you keep them in your hand?
40. Do you know what the phone numbers are to call for both an emergency and a non-emergency situation?
41. Do you own and carry a cellular telephone at all times?
42. Are you aware of *and do you attend* 1st Tuesday?
43. Have you ever had a LVMPD Crime Prevention Specialist do a survey of your home?
44. Do you know where the nearest police sub-station is located?
45. Have you ever taken a personal protection/self-defense course?

