

MAKE LIFE HARDER FOR CRIMINALS

This brochure is full of tips that can help you avoid becoming a victim of a crime when you are out and about or at work.

By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself, and also discourage those who commit crime.

Be prepared

- Always be alert and aware of the people around you.
- Educate yourself concerning prevention tactics.
- Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.

Street precautions

- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you, especially if you are alone or it is dark.
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend.
- Stay in well-lighted areas as much as possible.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys where someone could hide.
- Walk confidently, and at a steady pace.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street, continue walking.
- If you carry a purse, hold it securely between your arm and your body.

Car safety

- Always lock car doors after entering or leaving your car.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Have your car keys in your hand so you don't have to linger before entering your car.
- Check the back seat before entering your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place.
- If your car breaks down, open the hood and attach a white cloth to the car antenna. If someone stops to help, stay in the locked car, roll down the window a little and ask them to call a tow service.
- Don't stop to aid motorists stopped on the side of the road. Go to a phone and request help for them.

Waiting for a bus

- Avoid isolated bus stops.
- Stand away from the curb until the bus arrives.
- Don't open your purse or wallet while boarding the bus. Have your pass or money already in your hand.
- Don't invite trouble — keep gold chains out of sight; don't flash your jewelry; and turn your rings around so the stones don't show.

On the bus

- During off-hours, sit as close to the bus driver as possible.
- Stay alert — and be aware of the people around you.

- If someone bothers you, change seats and/or tell the driver.
- Carry your wallet inside your coat, or in a front pocket. A comb, placed horizontally in the fold of your wallet, will alert you if someone tries to remove it from your pocket.
- Keep your handbag in front of you and hold it close to your body with both hands.
- Check your purse or wallet if someone is jostling, crowding, or pushing you.
- If you see any suspicious activity, tell the driver.

Office security

- Never leave your purse or billfold in plain view or in the pocket of a jacket hanging on a door.
- Personal property should be marked with your driver's license number (preceded with the letters 'CA').
- Don't leave cash or valuables at the office.
- If you work alone or before/after normal business hours, keep the office door locked.
- If you work late, try to find another worker or a security guard to walk out with you.
- If you are in the elevator with another person, stand near the control panel. If you are attacked, press the alarm and as many of the control buttons as possible.
- Be alert for pickpockets on crowded elevators.
- Report all suspicious people and activities to the proper authorities: office manager, building security, law enforcement.