

When Driving

- **LOOK** inside car before entering. An intruder may be crouched on back seat floor. Have your keys ready.
- **PLAN** alternative routes to your destination. Keep gas tank full and car in good working condition. Keep doors locked and windows rolled up.
- **SOUND** horn to attract attention if approached by suspicious person or curbed by another auto.
- **IF CAR BREAKS DOWN**, remain inside with windows up and doors locked. If person offers help, tell him that police or tow truck has been called even if it is not true. This is wise because you won't reveal your vulnerability to someone with bad intentions. Remain in car until police arrive.
- **BUMP AND ROB** tactics include bumping into your rear bumper. Once you get out of your vehicle to inspect the damage, the criminal will then take your purse or possibly your car.

Smash and Grab

- **PLACE** your purse and other valuables under front seat or better yet in the trunk and cover or remove jewelry. Example: Use gloves to cover rings and scarves to cover precious necklaces.
- **REMAIN** alert at all times. Take special care when stopped in traffic for anyone approaching your auto. Keep radio off or at low volume to help remain alert.
- **KEEP** reasonable distance from the car in front of you. If you can see the rear tires on the auto in front of you then there is sufficient room to maneuver around it to escape.
- **TRY** to drive in the left lane, away from the curb, where you are less vulnerable. Refrain from asking directions from strangers.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

There are hundreds of thousands of good people living in Chicago, but in a city the size of ours, there are also people with criminal intentions. Offenders thrive on opportunity and prey on victims that appear to be the most vulnerable. The majority of these offenses are committed by offenders with greater strength than their victims or by offenders taking advantage of a victim's lack of alertness.

This brochure contains suggestions and precautionary measures you should take when away from home. I urge you to be extremely alert when out on the street. Follow the suggestions in this brochure, and to call the Police Emergency number 9-1-1 (hearing impaired also call 9-1-1) if you need help or see someone else in need of assistance. Apply these crime prevention tips to safeguard yourself so you can travel in comparative safety.



STREET SAFETY



Chicago Police Department
Preventive Programs
3510 S. Michigan
Unit 132
Chicago, IL 60653

PRECAUTIONS FOR

- **PEDESTRIANS**
- **COMMUTERS**
- **MOTORISTS**

Before Leaving Your Home

- **DETERMINE** travel routes and estimate time you will spend at each location.
- **LEAVE** with a friend or relative indicating your destination and expected time of return. If possible, have a trusted person stay in your home while you are out.
- **CARRY** only identification, phone numbers and credit cards you will need.
- **PROVIDE ADEQUATE LOCKS.** Use deadbolt locks which are manually activated and with a bolt at least one inch long or a jimmy resistant bolt which is manually activated and interlocks into the strike plate for security. Install a small glass magnifier in front door.
- **LOCK** all doors and windows before departure. If returning at night, leave an exterior light burning.
- **UPON RETURNING HOME,** enter cautiously. If the door was forced open or you notice other evidence of a break in leave your home and immediately call the police.

In Public Places

- **BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS.** Watch out for anyone who jostles you, it may be accidental but, then again, it may not. A good purse is one with a flap which folds over the opening and fastens at the bottom. The easiest purse for you to open also is the easiest for offenders. Men should carry their wallets in inner or side pockets.
- **BEWARE OF PURSE SNATCHERS.** Remain alert. On heavy shopping days, best bet is to leave purse at home and carry keys, money and credit cards in inside pockets. Do not place your purse in a shopping cart.
- **IN THEATERS,** try to sit near aisle. Avoid dark corners or areas of vacant seats at rear or in balcony. Do not place purse in empty seat next to you.
- **IN RESTAURANTS OR TAVERNS,** be wary of strangers. In conversation, avoid giving name, residency or location. Do not leave your purse on the floor or on an empty chair.

When Walking

- **PLAN** your route. Avoid shortcuts through deserted parks, vacant lots and unlit passages. Walk only on streets with plenty of light and traffic.
- **DON'T LOITER.** Remain alert at all times, even when window shopping. Be prepared to run if followed. If followed by someone in a car, run in the opposite direction.
- **CHANGE** your route as needed. Avoid unlit doorways and other shadowy areas. At night, walk in the middle of street if necessary until reaching a better illuminated street.

Biking, Jogging and other Outdoor Activities

- **CHOOSE** routes in advance and vary routes.
- **AVOID** biking or jogging at night.
- **IF POSSIBLE** bike or jog with other people.
- **CONSIDER** carrying a whistle or shriek alarm.
- **STAY ALERT** by not wearing headphones.
- **KNOW** the area. Learn the locations of business establishments, hospitals, police and fire stations where you can go for help.

Elevators

- **BEFORE** entering, look at persons occupying the elevator. If you are uneasy, wait for the next elevator.
- **IF YOU NOTICE** that a person in the elevator has not pushed a floor indicator button, do not get off on your floor. Go back to the lobby and report suspicious activity.
- **STAND** near the control buttons. If attacked or threatened, sound the alarm. Also push two or three floor buttons.

Using Public Transportation

- **BOARD** transportation from well lighted areas. Remain there until bus or train arrives.
- **CHOOSE** boarding location with most passengers.
- **REMAIN** alert and observe fellow passengers. Change seat if you become uneasy with behavior of others.
- **WHENEVER POSSIBLE,** sit on aisle seat to prevent being trapped inside.

If Attacked

- **SCREAM** as loud as you can to attract attention. Attempt to escape, if possible, by striking hard and fast.
- **SELF DEFENSE** methods that have proved effective in inflicting pain include: gouging eyes with thumbs; scratching with nails; poking umbrella into midriff; strong punch to groin; and bashing temple, nose or Adam's apple with fist, purse, book or other object.
- **IF ATTACKED FROM BEHIND:** Dig heel into offender's instep or kick shins. Batter face with back of your head. Grab offender's little finger or thumb and bend back sharply. Promptly call police and provide all information of attack and description of offender.

Whether at home, on the street, or in public places:

Be alert to anything suspicious. Dial 911.
The call is free and remain anonymous if you desire.