

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



CAPS TIPS

*Brought to you by the Chicago Police Department
Your Partners for Safe Neighborhoods*

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

You're often told not to be a victim of crime. But you may wonder how to ensure that. While no one can guarantee your total safety, you can lessen the chance of being a victim by making it more difficult for a would-be thief or attacker.

AT HOME: Don't be surprised.

Keep your doors locked when home alone and lock your windows too when leaving the house for any long period of time. Open doors and windows are an invitation that you don't want to send. Turn your porch lights on at night and illuminate your backyard to ensure that anyone lurking there will be easily detected.

ON THE STREET: Be alert.

Make sure you are not an easy target for crime on the street. Carry your purse in a manner that makes it hard to get -- across your chest or under your arm where more than a simple grab is needed to snatch it. Men should carry their wallets in their inside coats or side pants pocket, never in your back pants pocket where it is easy to grab. If you walk to and from work or public transit stations, particularly at night, use well-lit and populated streets. When possible, walk with friends and, if you can, vary the route you take each day or night.

ON PUBLIC TRANSIT: Be prepared.

Have the exact fare ready before you leave home so that there is no need to open a purse or wallet. During late night or early morning stay near the agent on duty in subways and when possible sit on the aisle seat where you will have more mobility should trouble occur.

IN YOUR CAR: Secure your ride.

Lock your doors and be sure to store your purse, wallet or other valuables beneath your seat -- *not on the seat next to you where they are easy and inviting targets for theft.* Park in a well lit area for the safety of your car and yourself and *always lock your car.* If you notice that the street lights are out, call 311 or your Police District's Neighborhood Relations office to make sure this "condition for crime" is remedied.

GOING HOME: Be ready.

Always carry your keys in your hands so that you are ready to open the door. If you know you will be coming home after dark, make sure to leave some lights on.

FINALLY, WHEREVER YOU ARE:

Remember -- A crime-free city requires that everyone report suspicious activity by calling 911 and report conditions that make crime possible by calling 311.

More information about CAPS is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cityofchicago.org> Join the CAPS team of police officers, residents, and City Departments working together for a safer Chicago.

City of Chicago
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