

ON THE STREET

- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you – especially if you are alone.
- Walk confidently at a steady pace. Be alert. Notice who passes you and who is behind you.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- When possible, travel with a friend.
- Walk in well-lighted areas. Don't walk near bushes, alleys, etc.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- Don't overburden yourself with bags or packages that might make running difficult.
- Hold your purse tightly and close to your body. Keep your wallet in a front or buttoned hip pocket or inside a coat pocket.
- Carry as little cash as possible. Carry a whistle, personal alarm, or pepper spray.
- Don't hitchhike.
- If a car stops you for directions or information, always reply from a safe distance. Never get too close to the car.
- If a car persists in bothering you, cross the street, and walk or run in the opposite direction.
- If you feel someone is following you, turn around and check. Proceed to the nearest lighted house or place of business.
- If you feel you are in danger, do not be afraid to yell loudly and run.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

About one-third of sexual assaults occur in the victim's home.

About 40 percent of sexual assaults are committed by persons known to the victims, such as dates, acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, or even spouses.

Rapes also occur on the streets, in school yards, and in parking lots. Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.

Call your local rape crisis center to sign up for prevention and self-defense classes.

Many strategies are involved with rape avoidance. Studies show a combination of screaming, physical resistance, and fleeing is most effective.

ALWAYS BE PREPARED . . .

Be alert and aware of the people around you. Educate yourself on prevention tactics. Be aware of situations and locations which could make you vulnerable to crime (dark parking lots, areas with dense shrubbery, etc.).

“Serving with Honor”



Robert Handy
Chief of Police

Huntington Beach Police Department

Crime Prevention and Personal Safety

**Huntington Beach
Police Department**
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Emergency: **911**
Non-Emergency: (714) 960-8825
Information: (714) 960-8843
Vacation House Checks: (714) 374-1507
Website: www.hbpd.org

**POLICE – FIRE – MEDICAL
EMERGENCY:**

DIAL 9-1-1

AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM

This brochure has been prepared for your protection so you will not take unnecessary risks that could put you in danger. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself and also discourage those who commit crimes.

SAFETY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Have social security or retirement checks directly deposited to your checking or savings account.

Beware of get-rich-quick schemes or persons who ask you to give them large sums of money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Beware of "good" ideas on expensive home repairs or home improvements.



TELEPHONE SAFETY

- Keep all emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Don not give information about yourself to strangers over the telephone or admit that you are alone.
- Consider listing your name and number in the telephone book without your address. Also, list only the initial of your first name.
- If you receive an obscene call, hang up immediately.

BABYSITTING SAFETY



For your babysitter's immediate information, always post emergency numbers and your home phone number and address by the telephone.

Leave a number where you can be reached and other information the sitter might need.

HOME SAFETY TIPS

- ❖ Always keep doors secured with deadbolt locks. Exterior doors should be solid core wood (1 ¾ inch thick) or metal.
- ❖ Use secure locks on windows and sliding doors. Hardware is available that will allow windows and sliders to be partially opened during warm weather, yet maintain security. Place a metal or wooden rod in the track of sliding glass doors.
- ❖ Have lighting in good working condition at all entrances. Install motion detectors/lights around the outside of your home. Keep your home well-lighted inside and out. When away, have lights set on a timer. Never return home to a dark house.
- ❖ Install a viewer in your door. Know who is at the door before you open it. Do not rely on chain locks. Insist on ID from repair/sales persons. If in doubt, call their company to verify their identity. Do not admit persons asking to use your phone – offer to make the call for them.
- ❖ If you come home and find a door or window open or signs of forced entry, do not enter. Call the police for assistance.
- ❖ Know your neighbors and work out a mutual watch and warning system to prevent burglaries and other break-ins.
- ❖ Identify your belongings by engraving your driver's license or DMV identification number on your possessions.
- ❖ Do not hide spare keys outside. Give them to a trusted neighbor. If away for any length of time, have a neighbor pick up mail and papers and take out the trash.
- ❖ If you live in an apartment or condo, be attentive and careful if you are alone in the laundry room or garage.

- ❖ Have the locks re-keyed when you move into a new home.

IN AN ELEVATOR

Check the elevator before entering. If you are suspicious of any occupant, wait for the next elevator.

When riding in the elevator, stand near the control panel. If accosted, press all the buttons, including the alarm.



CAR SAFETY

- ◆ Always lock your car doors even when you will be gone only a few minutes.
- ◆ Lock your doors when driving.
- ◆ Park in well-lighted areas and observe your surroundings when you leave your car at night.
- ◆ Always have your car and/or house keys in hand so you will not have to fumble for them.
- ◆ Always check the back seat before entering your car.
- ◆ Keep your car in good working condition.
- ◆ If your car breaks down, use distress signals, such as putting the hood up, putting a white flag on the aerial, or setting your emergency flashers. Remain in the car with the doors locked. Wait for the police or ask anyone who does stop to send a tow truck or the police. Be wary of accepting help from strangers.
- ◆ If you are followed by another car, honk your horn all the way to the nearest gas station, police or fire station, or a lighted home.
- ◆ If someone threatens you while you are in your car, lock all doors, and blow the horn in short bursts to attract attention.