

# Crime Prevention Tips

## Protecting Yourself at Home

- ✓ **Call 911 to report suspicious persons or activity in or around your neighborhood.**
- ✓ Lock your door, even when you intend to return home shortly or even if you are just going down the hall. It takes a thief ten seconds or less to enter an open room and steal your property.
- ✓ Lock or secure doors and windows when you are alone or asleep.
- ✓ Keep emergency numbers programmed in your phone or close by your phone.
- ✓ Do not leave messages on your door indicating that you are away and when you will return.
- ✓ Do not let strangers enter your home.
- ✓ Do not prop open outer doors.
- ✓ If someone asks to use your phone for an emergency call, offer to telephone for them instead of allowing them access.
- ✓ Do not put your address on your key ring.
- ✓ Know your neighbors.
- ✓ Do not leave keys in hiding places. Thieves will find them. Carry your keys or make sure that anyone who truly needs them has their own copy.
- ✓ Open a savings or checking account instead of keeping large sums of money in your home.
- ✓ Keep automatic teller machine cards in a safe place, keep your PIN number secret. When possible, only use ATMs during the day.
- ✓ Instead of carrying large sums of cash use a charge/debit card. Some charge cards insure property purchased with those cards against loss, theft or damage.
- ✓ **If you find yourself in immediate danger, call 911; try to stay calm and get away at the first opportunity, try to bring attention to yourself if in danger.**

## Protect Yourself When Walking

- ✓ Avoid walking alone at night unless absolutely necessary.
- ✓ Keep to well lit commonly traveled routes.
- ✓ Avoid shortcuts and dark, isolated areas.
- ✓ Walk purposefully, know where you are going, project a no-nonsense image.
- ✓ Avoid potentially dangerous situations.
- ✓ If you feel threatened, locate an emergency phone, or enter a store or place of business even if you have just left it.
- ✓ Keep your cell phone in your hand with 911 programmed in speed dial.
- ✓ Have your door keys ready; carry them in your pockets, not buried in a purse.

## Protect Your Automobile, Bicycle or Moped

- ✓ Always lock your car. (One in five stolen cars was left with keys in the ignition.)
- ✓ Lock bikes to immovable objects or bike racks with hardened alloy locks and chains or U-shaped lock
- ✓ Do not leave tempting valuables or property visible inside the car. Lock these items in the trunk.
- ✓ Lock mopeds as you would bikes.

## Protecting yourself

- ✓ Look into your car before getting in. Lock doors and roll up windows once inside for protection.
- ✓ Never pick up hitchhikers.
- ✓ Carry change for emergency calls. 911 is a free call. **(Do not assume everyone in your neighborhood has a cell phone and do not assume you will have your phone in your hand if attacked)**
- ✓ Drive to a police or fire station or open place of business if you feel you are being followed. **(NE Station is located at 9915 East Northwest Highway, 75238 214-670-4415)**
- ✓ Do not stop to help occupants of stopped or disabled vehicles.
- ✓ Continue driving to the nearest phone and call assistance for them.
- ✓ Raise the hood, then lock yourself into your car if it breaks down. If someone stops and offers you help, remain in your car and ask them to phone for help. Do not worry about seeming rude.