

Orlando Police Department Crime Prevention



STEPS FOR PERSONAL SAFETY



KEEPING ORLANDO A SAFE CITY BY REDUCING CRIME AND MAINTAINING LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS



What is personal safety?

It's taking steps to protect yourself from crime

- Avoiding crime
- Without a doubt, prevention is your best protection against crime

- Knowing what to do if you're a victim
- By knowing how to react, you can:

Help avoid injury.

Cooperate in the prosecution of the criminal.



You can increase your personal safety. Many crimes can be prevented if you:



- Trust your instincts. If you suspect something is wrong, or if a situation seems dangerous, you may be right! Don't dismiss suspicious people, cars or situations. Report them immediately.
- Avoid dangerous situations. Don't invite trouble. Use your best judgment.
- Work with police. Working together can prevent and solve many crimes.

Protect yourself at home



- **Lights:** leave at least one light on inside and outside when you are not home. Use a timer when you are away on a trips.
- **Unwanted calls:** do not give out or verify personal information over the phone. Screen your calls.
- **Locks:** buy and use high quality deadbolts!



Protect yourself at home



- **Strangers:** install a peephole or use a window to see who is there before opening the door. Always ask for ID.
- **Neighborhood friends:** watch each others properties and let them know about suspicious persons.
- **Elevators:** always get with a group if possible. Stand away from the door while waiting. Get off immediately if uncomfortable.



Target Hardening

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Features that prohibit access.

- Metal door frames
- Solid core doors
- Single cylinder deadbolts with
2" throw
3" screws in strike plates
- 180° viewer or peephole
- CCTVs
- Security/surveillance systems

Protect yourself on the street



- Dress appropriately. Avoid flashy clothes and jewelry. Dress so you can walk or run to avoid an attack.
- Walk with someone. Or if alone, be ready to go to a public and or crowded place.
- Walk near people. Avoid isolated areas and avoid shortcuts.
- Carry only what you need!



Protect yourself on the street



- If you are being followed:
- Act suspicious. Turn to look at the person, it shows you won't be taken by surprise.
- Change directions.
- Go into a public place, such as a store.



Protect yourself while travelling.
Know where you are going before you leave home.



IN A CAR:

Keep doors and windows rolled up and locked.

Always lock your car and set alarms.

Park in areas that will be well lit when you return.

Keep valuables out of sight in the trunk. Remove and secure all mounted items, such as GPS.

Never hitchhike or pick up strangers.



On public transportation



- Airport: keep your belongings with you at all times.
- Taxis: sit in the back seat and call ahead for rides if possible. Use registered, licensed taxis.
- Buses: wait near others and sit in an aisle seat close to the driver.
- Subways/trains: stay alert, do not wear headphones.

In hotels and motels



- Leave valuables in a safe.
- Always keep your room key with you.
- Double lock the door when you are inside.
- Tell the clerk not to give out your room number.
- Never give out your room number to strangers or people you've just met.
- Report any suspicious activity to security or staff immediately, or call the police.

Work with the police



- Keep emergency numbers handy.
- Stay alert. Remember the time, the person's appearance- age, height, weight, clothing, hair, scars, etc. Remember the car's make, color and any thing distinguishable.
- Notify the police immediately to report suspicious activity, cars, people, etc.
- Press charges.



Responding to an attack.

In any situation, your goal is to get away safely



- Evaluate the situation: look around. Is help available? What state of mind is your attacker in?
- Stay alert: listen and observe carefully, so you can make the best decision now and provide important evidence later.
- Remember, your goals are escape and WIN. If the attacker wants valuables, give them up.

Decide how to respond



- Only you can decide the best response in an emergency. Be realistic about your ability to protect yourself. Screaming, hitting, biting may help you escape, but it could also expose you to greater harm. Do what comes naturally and do it immediately.
- Remember each emergency is different. Only YOU can decide what action is best.

Special tips



- **STAY ALERT**
- **AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS**
- **TAKE PRECAUTIONS**
- **WORK WITH POLICE**
- **START OR MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH.**
- **REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY TO 911.**



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- TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION:
- Please visit the Orlando Police website at www.cityoforlando.net or you may call our crime prevention section at 407-246-2461.