




# Personal Safety







Jill Mecklenburg  
Certified Crime Prevention Specialist

Richfield Police



## Definitions



- **Attacker:** A person who touches and hurts you, or beats you up.
- **Burglar:** A person who steals something from your home.
- **Robber:** A person who steals something from you with force or threat of force.
- **Thief:** A person who steals from you without you knowing.



## Call 911

- Police



- Fire



- Medical



## Protecting Yourself

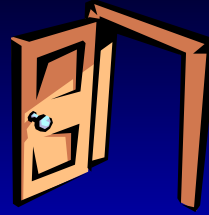


- No one has the right to hurt you. If someone tries to, it should make you angry.
- Plan ahead to protect yourself.

Think about crime prevention every day.

Practice crime prevention every day.

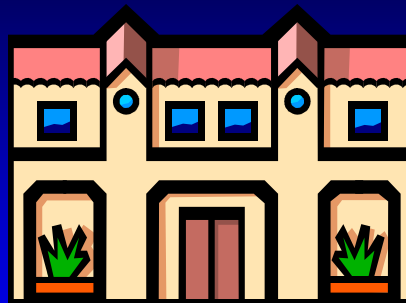
# Personal Safety At Home



## At Home



- Do not open the door for anyone you do not know. Have them buzz the apartment which they are visiting, the office or the resident manager.
- If someone buzzes your apartment, verify that you know them – walk down to the front door, if necessary.





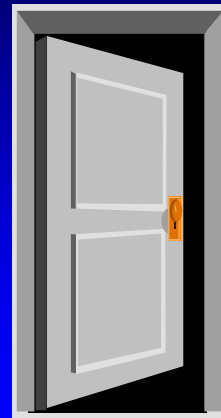
## At Home



- Anyone living alone should use only their first initial and last name in the phone book and on the mailbox.
- The buzzer system should not list your apartment number – just your first initial and last name.



## At Home



- Your door should have a deadbolt lock and a high security strike plate.
- Your door should have a peephole.
- Always lock your doors and windows.

# Deadbolt Locks



## Deadbolt Lock





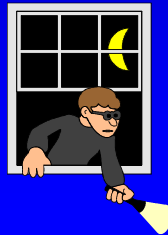
## Visible Address & Eye Viewer



## At Home

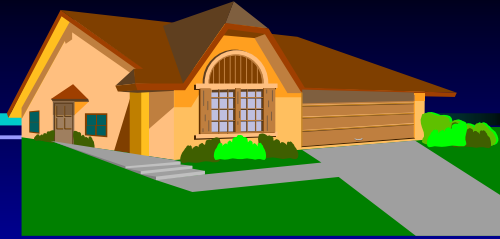


- If you suspect your home has been broken into, immediately **call 9-1-1** from a neighbor's home.
- Don't look or go inside until the police say it is safe.

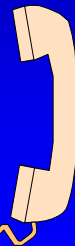




## At Home



- Never allow a stranger into your home...even if they claim it's an emergency and need to use a phone.
- Speak to them through your closed, locked door and offer to make the call for them.



## At Home



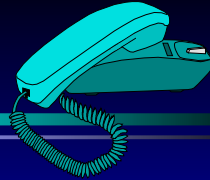
- Always check the I.D. of anyone coming into your home.



- Invite a friend, staff or neighbor to visit when a repair/service person is in your home.



## At Home



- Never give out your name, address or other personal information to someone who calls you. (Even if they say you've won a prize!)

Examples of personal information:

- social security number
- credit card numbers
- your age
- where you work



## At Home

- If someone calls and says dirty or bad things, **HANG UP!**
- Tell staff, a counselor or a parent about the call.





# Safety in the Community



## Personal Safety

**Goal**: To be alert & observant.  
Make crime prevention part  
of every day.

**Think**: Don't give anyone a  
chance to steal from you.





## Personal Safety in the Community



- **Goal:** To be alert & observant.
- **Think:** Keep yourself in safe areas.
- **Do:** Use a buddy system.  
Use well-lighted streets.  
Use a flashlight if it's dark.



## Personal Safety in the Community

**Goal:** To be alert & observant.

**Don't:** Give someone a chance to attack you.

**Do:**

- Look around you and act confident.
- Make quick eye contact with people.
- If you are being followed on foot or someone is making you uncomfortable, get to the nearest public place. Call home, staff, counselor or 911.





## Personal Safety in Elevators & Stairwells



**Goal :** Keep yourself in safe areas.

- Do:**
- ♦ In elevators, stand near the control panel.
  - ♦ If you don't feel safe, get out of the elevator, or hit the alarm.
  - ♦ In stairwells, don't stop to talk to people you don't know.



## Personal Safety

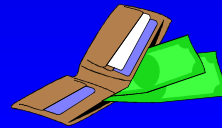
- Do:**
- ♦ Carry your wallet in your front pocket
  - ♦ Use a belly bag
  - ♦ Carry your bag in front of you.

- Don't:**
- ♦ Set your purse on the floor in restrooms, theaters, restaurants, or other public places.



## Personal Safety Out Shopping

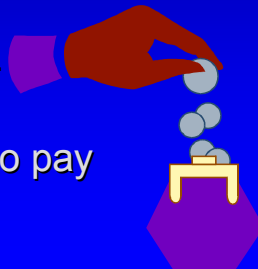
- Don't give anyone a chance to steal from you.
- When you open your wallet, don't show your money or credit cards.
- Carry your wallet in a front pocket or use a belly bag. Carry your bag or purse in front.
- Make sure it is closed!



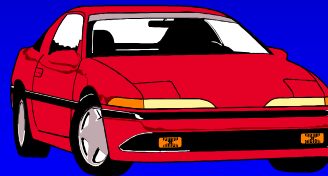
## Your Money



- **Goal:** To be alert & observant. Make crime prevention part of every day.
- **Think:** You work hard for your money. Don't let anyone steal or "borrow" it.
- **Do:**
  - ➔ Carry only the amount of money you need for the day.
  - ➔ Don't give your money to others even if they promise to pay it back.



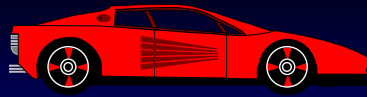
# Personal Safety & Transportation



## Public Transportation

- Know the bus schedule so you won't have to wait alone at the bus stop for a long time.
- Carry the exact change for the bus ride in your hand.
- Use a Stored Value Card to ride the bus - may be purchased at some grocery stores
- Sit in the front of the bus near the driver.





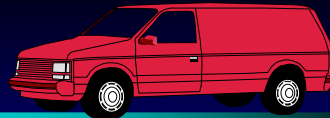
## In a Vehicle



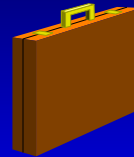
- While walking to your car, have your key ready in your hand.
- Before getting into a car, look in the back seat to see if someone is hiding there.
- Get into your vehicle and lock the door right away.



## In a Vehicle



- Park in a well-lighted area.
- Lock your car...even if you're just running into the store for a minute.
- Never leave your purse or bag in your car. Place them out of sight or in the trunk.

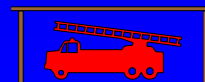




## In a Vehicle



- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up most of the way.
- If someone tries to break into your car, honk your horn repeatedly and try to drive away.
- If you are being followed, don't drive directly home. Drive to the nearest 24-hour police or fire station, hospital emergency entrance, all-night restaurant or other place where there are people.

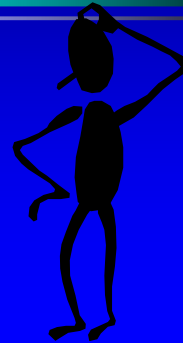
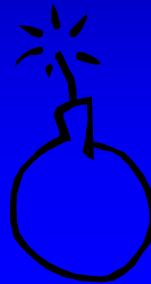


## In a Vehicle

- If your vehicle breaks down, turn on the flashers, raise the hood or use a "Call Police" sign in the windshield. If someone stops, stay in the vehicle and ask them to call the police.



# Preparing For Trouble



## Preparing For Trouble



- **Goal:** To be alert & observant. Make crime prevention part of every day.
- **Think:** What would you do if physically attacked?
- **Do:** Whatever will result in the least amount of harm to yourself!!
- Look for a chance to escape.
- There is no right or wrong way to react... every situation is different.





## In Trouble By Yourself

- If a robber demands your valuables, give them up! Your money and jewelry are not worth your life.
- If someone has a weapon, stay calm.

**DO NOT** get into a vehicle with a robber or attacker!



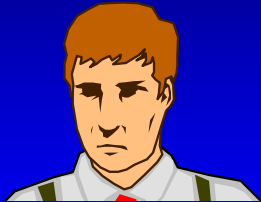
## In Trouble

- Carrying a gun, mace, or any weapon is not a good idea. It can easily be used against you.
- Try to escape ~ IF you have to fight back, mark your assailant with punches, scratches or kicks. The marks can help the police catch the attacker.





## If You Are Attacked



- **Do: What will result in the least amount of harm to yourself!!**
- While looking for a chance to escape, look at your attacker...one feature at a time and remember their hair, eyes, eyebrows, nose, moustache, mouth, voice, age, scars, etc.



## If You Are Attacked



- As soon as you can, call the police and write down or tell someone everything you can remember your attacker.
- Don't change your clothing, bathe or apply any medication. You could destroy evidence that can help the police put the attacker in jail.





## Bottom Line

- No one has the right to hurt you. If someone tries to, it should make you angry.
- Plan ahead to protect yourself.



- Think about crime prevention every day.
- Practice crime prevention every day.



## Thank You

Questions?

Please call the Richfield Police  
Crime Prevention Unit  
612/861-9845