



Personal Safety

Crime can happen to anyone, so everyone is ultimately responsible for their own personal safety. The good news is that staying safe is easier than you might think. Awareness of your surroundings and knowing what to do in a situation (pre-planning), will make your day to day events safer.



How Streetwise Are You?

Do you...

- Stuff your backpack or purse with cash, keys, pager, cell phones, credit cards, checkbooks, and then leave it wide open at school or work near your desk or on the floor?
- Think about school or work, family or friends when walking, driving, or riding the bus, rather than paying attention to your surroundings?
- Think it's a waste of time to lock up valuables or to lock your car when you'll be back in a few minutes?
- Walk or jog by yourself early in the morning or late at night when the streets are quiet and deserted?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you need to change a few habits. Even if you answered “no” and made a perfect score, read on. Spend a few minutes now to prevent trouble later.

Keeping Street Sense in Mind

- Stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings wherever you are: at school or the mall, on the street, waiting for a bus, or driving.
- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- Don't accept rides or gifts from someone you don't know well or trust—that includes people you've met on the Internet.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live, go to school and work. Keep in mind locations of

fire and police stations and public telephones. Remember which stores and restaurants stay open late.

Strolling—Day and Night

- Try to walk places with your friends rather than alone.
- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through thickly vegetated areas, parking lots, or alleys.
- Take the safest route to and from schools, stores, or your friends' houses.
- Know where to go for help if you need it.
- Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets like pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- Carry your backpack or purse close to your body and keep it closed.
- Just carrying a wallet? Put it inside your front pants pocket, not in your back pocket or in your backpack.
- Have your car or house key in your hand before you reach the door.
- If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If they're still following, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Don't be afraid to yell for help.
- Have to work late? Make sure there are others in the building and that someone—a supervisor or security guard—will wait with you for your ride or walk you to your car or bus stop.
- Be alert in the neighborhood. Call police about anything you see that seems suspicious.

Driving

- Keep your car in good running condition.
- Make sure there's enough gas to get where you're going and back.
- Turn the ignition off and take your car keys with you, even if you just have to run inside for a minute.
- Roll up the windows and lock car doors, even if you're coming right back.
- Check inside and out before getting in.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. If you are uncomfortable, ask a security guard or store staff to watch you or escort you to your car.
- Drive to the nearest gas station, open business, or other well-lighted, crowded area to get help if you think you are being followed. Don't head home.
- Use your cellular phone, if you have one, to call the police if you are being followed or you've seen an accident.
- Otherwise, stay off your cellular phone while you are driving.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers. Don't hitchhike.

If Someone Tries To Rob You

- Give up your property—don't give up your life.
- ^a Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

Contact Us

For more information on Personal Safety and other Crime Prevention issues, contact the Pima County Sheriff's Department's Community Resources Team at (520) 741-4615. We'll be happy to send you educational materials and brochures, or provide safety presentations. Call today!



PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Clarence W. Dupnik
Sheriff of Pima County

Community Resources Team
1750 E. Benson Highway
Tucson, Arizona 85714
(520) 741-4615
(520) 741-4902 fax
www.pimasheriff.org



Crime Prevention Tips From
National Crime Prevention Council
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20006-3817
www.weprevent.org



Pima County Board of Supervisors: Sharon Bronson, Chair,
District 3; Ann Day, District 1; Ramón Valadez, District 2;
Raymond J. Carroll, District 4; Richard Elías, District 5
Pima County Administrator: C.H. Huckelberry



Pima County
Sheriff's Department

PERSONAL SAFETY



Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik
1750 E. Benson Highway
Tucson, Arizona 85714