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### **CRIME PREVENTION TIPS: PERSONAL SAFETY**

Everyone fears street crime. Though the odds of it happening to you are relatively low, taking some simple precautions can reduce the risk of being robbed or injured even further. Keep in mind that these common sense tips are only suggestions; there is no one right response for every situation.

1. Avoid walking on poorly lighted streets and in areas that are not well traveled. Better to take a longer route than an unsafe short one.
2. Walk with someone else if possible—especially at night. Company, male or female will discourage most muggers.
3. Be alert to your surroundings. Avoid walking too close to bushes, alleys, entryways or other good hiding places.
4. Never carry more money than necessary. You invite trouble by carrying or displaying large amounts of cash or other valuables in public. For men, money is most safely carried in the front pocket of pants.
5. Women should consider whether they really need to carry a handbag. If you must, carry it tightly under your arm ... not dangling from your wrist or wrapped tightly around it. Never leave it unattended on store counters, bus seats, or in shopping carts.
6. Carry a personal alarm such a whistle. Unexpected loud noises can scare off a troublemaker and summon help.
7. If someone is following you on foot, cross the street, change your direction or vary your pace. If followed by someone in a car, turn around and walk briskly in the other direction. If still followed, seek assistance at the nearest home or business and immediately call the police.
8. Have your keys ready before you enter your car or house. You are more vulnerable when fumbling for keys.
9. If you are actually robbed or assaulted, the most important thing is to keep your wits. You must make a personal judgment as to how best to respond given the situation and your confidence in being able to physically defend yourself. If only your property is threatened, it is usually advisable not to resist—it is not worth the risk.
10. Do not rely on weapons for protection. A metal file, scissors, keys, a knife—all can just as easily be used against you.
11. Most importantly, get to know your neighbors and cooperate with them in making your immediate neighborhood safer.