

Remember the Basics of Personal Safety:

- Always be alert and aware.
Observe your surroundings at all times.
- Think buddy system.
If you have to go out alone, stay near other people.
If necessary, ask for an escort.
- Use common sense.
Plan ahead, avoid dangerous situations and don't be afraid to ask for help.
Observe and report suspicious people or activities.
- Trust your intuition.
Don't ignore your instincts or feelings about people and situations.
Take steps to protect yourself.
It's better to play it safe than to take an unnecessary risk and regret it later.



FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION

Crime Prevention Begins with You

- Call the Fort Worth Police Department to request a free home security evaluation.
- Organize and participate in Neighborhood Crime Watch or Citizens on Patrol – Code Blue.



- Mark your property with your driver's license number, following this example: TX00000000DL.

For more information, call the Crime Prevention Specialist serving your area:

Central Division: 817-392-3997

East Division:817-392-5520

North Division:682-225-0517

Northwest Division: 817-392-3537

South Division:817-392-3405

West Division: 817-991-8476



The Fort Worth Police Department is just one of the many services provided by the City of Fort Worth. To find out more about city services, visit fortworthtexas.gov.

Personal Safety

Know how to protect yourself.

Personal safety is everyone's responsibility.



Emergency 911

Non-emergency 817-392-4222



Know how to protect yourself

At Home:

- Keep doors and windows locked, day and night.
- Install surveillance cameras.
- Close drapes and blinds at night.
- Install a peephole in your front door.
- Ask all visitors, including service personnel, to identify themselves before opening the door. If you are suspicious, don't open the door and call the company to verify.
- If a stranger asks for help, don't open the door. Offer to call for help.
- Use your initials rather than your first name on your mailbox and phone listing.
- Don't advertise that you're not home by leaving a note on your door.
- When out of town have someone you trust pickup your mail and newspaper or have your mail and newspaper stopped.
- If you return home and something doesn't look or feel right, don't enter the house. Call the police to check the house first.
- Don't give your name, address or other information to an unknown caller.
- If someone calls and says it is a wrong number, don't give out your number.
- Don't tell a visitor or caller that you are home alone.
- Call the police department to request a free home security survey.

On the Phone:

If you get an obscene or harassing phone call:

- Hang up immediately.
- For repeat calls, blow a whistle into the mouthpiece as soon as you know it is an obscene call.
- If harassment continues, ask the phone company to monitor your phone or change your number.

When you're walking alone:

- Present yourself confidently and scan your surroundings.

- Stand straight, keep your head up and make brief eye contact with strangers.
- Don't look "like a victim" by appearing weak, afraid, confused or timid. Criminals prey on people who look like they can be intimidated.
- Wear shoes and clothes that allow free movement in case you have to run.
- Don't overload yourself with parcels.
- Leave valuables at home.
- Conceal or avoid wearing jewelry.
- Stay on busy, well-lit streets, even if it makes your trip a little longer.
- Avoid taking shortcuts through anywhere dark or isolated.
- Don't accept rides from strangers.
- If you approach a strange vehicle, don't get close enough to be dragged into the vehicle.
- If a car is following you, turn around and move toward a well-lit area with people.
- Have your keys out and ready.

When you're driving:

- Lock your car doors as soon as you get in.
- Lower windows only slightly so no one can reach inside.
- Keep a full tank of gas.
- Choose a well-lit, well-traveled route.
- Vary your route so observers won't learn your routine.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers.
- Don't stop to help strangers. Offer to call for help.
- If a car follows you, don't go home. Go to an open business and call the police. Try to get the license plate number and a description of the car and any occupants.

If your car breaks down:

- Get off the road safely and call for help.
- If someone stops, lower the window and ask them to call for help.
- If someone tries to forcefully enter your car, turn on the lights and flashers and honk the horn.

When you park your car:

- Park in a well-lit area.
- Always lock car doors.
- Store valuables and packages in the trunk.
- When parking in a garage or using a valet, only leave the ignition key with the attendant.

- When approaching your car, be aware of your surroundings. Check the inside and outside to see if anyone is hiding.
- Ask for an escort or wait for other people if you feel uneasy.
- Have your key out and ready.

If you're robbed or assaulted:

A criminal may use a weapon or force to intimidate, threaten or attack you. They could be nervous, desperate or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. You need to rely on your best judgment and common sense about how to deal with an attacker. While there is no "right" way to handle a potentially violent situation, the following recommendations may be helpful:

- Try to stay calm. While difficult, this can help you assess the situation.
- If you are being robbed, it is best to cooperate fully. Resisting could cause injury.

If an attacker takes you to another location, your chances of surviving the "secondary crime scene" are decreased. Most robberies will be committed on the spot. If the criminal is moving you to another location, it is to decrease discovery.

If you decide to resist, you can employ passive or active techniques:

Passive Resistance

- Try to delay the attack and look for a way to escape.
- Try to talk to the attacker and treat them as a person.
- Choose tactics that will leave you the option of trying something else if the first tactic doesn't work.

Whether you decide to cooperate, scream, run or fight off an attacker will depend on your judgment of the risks involved.

Active Resistance

Use physical action or force to repel the attacker:

- Scream, run or get someone's attention to get help.
- Physically fight back by jabbing eyes, kicking in the groin, stomping the instep.
- Use your hands, fingers, head, elbows, legs and knees as weapons.
- Learn and practice self-defense techniques.
- Learn gun safety and proper use if you are going to have a gun in your house.