



# Oberlin Police Department



## Personal Safety & Robbery Prevention

This paper contains tips on personal safety when you are away from home. They are simple, common sense suggestions that may help keep you from being an easy target for a criminal.

### **On the Street and Other Places**

- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Walk with a friend or family member. There is safety in numbers.
- Walk with confidence and know where you are going. Be alert. Make eye contact with people you pass.
- Watch your surroundings. Leave any places in which you are uncomfortable. Be especially alert for suspicious persons around banks, ATMs (Automated Teller Machines), stores, your home, etc.
- Cross the street if you see someone suspicious following you.
- Walk into an open business and call 911 if you see anyone acting suspicious or following you. Don't go home.
- Don't go out alone at night, venture into unfamiliar or dark places, take shortcuts, talk to or accept rides with strangers, or hitch rides. Don't walk in or near alleys, on deserted streets, near dark doorways or shrubbery.
- Don't approach vehicles even if the occupants say they need directions or assistance.
- Consider your options in the event you are confronted, e.g., scream or blow a whistle to attract attention, flee to a safe area, etc. Decide what you plan to do and practice your responses so you can recall them in a real situation.
- Carry keys, I.D., cash and credit cards in a pocket in case your purse or wallet gets stolen. Carry only necessities.
- Avoid verbal confrontations. They may lead to physical altercations.
- Don't leave keys in mailboxes or planters, under doormats, or in other obvious hiding spots. Leave an extra key with a neighbor.

***Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.***

Follow the four **A**'s of personal safety:

- Be **AWARE** of your surroundings and who or what is nearby.
- **ASSESS** the situation and possible threat.
- **ACT** quickly and decisively. Change your route, go into a store, use your voice, etc.
- Maintain a confident **ATTITUDE**. Don't appear to be an easy target.

***PLEASE REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INFORMATION MOST OFTEN NEEDED BY POLICE***

**Location of the event, Description of the event, Time of the event, Suspect description,  
Vehicle description, Direction of travel**

**EMERGENCY DIAL 911 / NON-EMERGENCY 440-774-1061**

If you have any questions concerning crime prevention or want to schedule a free security assessment please contact Officer Raymond Feuerstein