

# SAFETY SECURITY TIPS

bradystreetareaassociation.org

**BRADY  
STREET  
AREA  
ASSOCIATION**

*While there is no absolute protection from crime, increased awareness of crime prevention techniques can help decrease the possibility of crime occurring.*

## **Street Safety:**

- Always stay alert to your surroundings and avoid locations/situations that make you more vulnerable to crime such as alleys or dark parking lots.
- **Avoid distractions that decrease your awareness level, ie. talking on a cell phone or wearing headphones.**
- Walk with a purpose to communicate a message of confidence. Be alert, walk with your head up and do not let your mind wander. Make eye contact with people, however do not engage in conversation with strangers on the street. Frequently scan your surroundings, that includes behind you.
- **Travel with family and friends at night. Walking in a group decreases your chances of becoming a victim. Consider a taxi cab even for short trips when alone.**
- Stay in well-lit areas and avoid shortcuts through unlit, sparsely traveled paths such as trails, stairwells or alleys.
- Avoid displaying large amounts of cash or other tempting items, such as expensive jewelry and clothing.
- Always trust your instincts. If a person or place makes you uneasy, leave. Avoid uncomfortable situations. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- Be aware of groups of unfamiliar people out of place driving or just hanging around.
- **Keep backpacks, purses and cell phones in sight and/or secured when sitting at outdoor cafes.**
- **Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket**
- Carry only the amount of cash that you expect to use. If cash is needed use ATM or debit cards.
- Avoid outdoor ATM's at night and those in secluded areas.
- Be alert at banks or check cashing businesses. Carrying cash marks you as a target. Avoid showing your wallet when possible.

## **Home Safety:**

- Acknowledge all callers through locked doors. Before opening an exterior door to your home, know who is at the door and do not open the door to an unexpected visitor.
- Do not leave windows and doors open or unlocked when you are not home or while sleeping
- Never leave notes on your door that reveal that your home is not occupied.
- Lawn care is an effective indicator that someone is home. Keep your yard maintained.
- Trim Shrubs to deny intruders a hiding place to work; shrubs can block the view to the house. Walks and Driveways should also be kept free of objects or plants that might offer concealment for intruders who attempt to trespass.
- Permit easy visibility of your home by neighbors and/or police.
- Be alert in protecting not only your home, but your neighbors as well. Get to know your neighbors and share information on suspicious activity.
- When traveling, have a neighbor collect the mail/newspaper or have the deliveries temporarily stopped. Don't tell a stranger that your neighbor is not at home or volunteer any personal information about your neighbor.
- Do call your local District station, and ask for extra patrol when you are gone on vacation. Give them the following information:
  1. *Your name, address, and cell phone number or phone number where you will be*
  2. *When you are leaving and when you are returning*
  3. *What lights will be on and/or on a timer*
  4. *Who has a spare key and their contact information*
- Before moving into a new house or apartment, ensure all exterior door locks on your new home are re-keyed or changed. Also change the code to the garage door opener.
- Alarms provide added protection and are most effective when used with other security techniques.
- **Do call Non-Emergency (9336-4444) when you see illegal or suspicious activity**

## **Auto Safety:**

- You can take an active role in reducing the crime in our city by securing any property in your vehicle where thieves cannot see it, taking your keys with you, and locking your car doors. Burglary of a motor vehicle is most often a crime of opportunity. If you take away the opportunity, you reduce the chance of being a victim. Most thieves won't gamble with breaking into a vehicle where they may walk away empty handed. Remember, they're looking for a sure thing. In the majority of these cases, property can be seen by looking into your vehicle.
- Have your car keys ready as you approach your vehicle and look under, around, and inside your car for persons who may be hiding. If safe, enter and immediately lock all doors.
  - Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
  - **Remove all interior valuables/packages from plain view (preferably prior to reaching your destination). Lock these items in the trunk. These items often encourage a theft.**
  - Do not leave any articles of value in your car unattended, especially overnight (cell phones, laptops, money, wallet, purse).
  - Lock all doors and roll up all windows. Whether you leave your vehicle for a minute or several hours, secure your belongings, lock your car and take your keys.
  - Use auto theft deterrents such as kill switches, steering wheel and column devices.
  - Carry your registration with you. Don't leave any personal identification documents, keys or credit cards anywhere in the vehicle.
  - If you notice anyone acting suspicious or hanging around the parking lot, return to the business and notify the management or call the Milwaukee Police.

Safety suggestions collected by several sources, including the Milwaukee Police Department

## **Work with the Police:**

- Keep emergency numbers handy.
- Alert Police to suspicious activity.
- Stay alert. When reporting to police remember the time, the person's appearance, age, height, weight, clothing, hair, scars, etc. Remember the car's make, color and any thing distinguishable.
- **Notify the Milwaukee Police immediately to report suspicious activity, cars, people, etc. at non-emergency 414-933-4444 or in an emergency call 911!**