

March 2007

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

According to the Michigan State Police, it is estimated that \$65 million is lost each year in the United States in home invasions, muggings, and in other violent crimes. It is estimated that \$600 billion is lost per year due to fraud. Work place violence caused an estimated \$30 billion to American businesses last year.

It is important to be aware a crime can occur, anticipating the location, time, and taking action to reduce the chance of it happening. Crime prevention is key to stopping the ability and opportunity for a criminal. The use of instinct, knowledge, common sense, and awareness can make you a tough target.

Three Basic Rules

- Stay alert.
- Keep your mind on your surroundings, who's in front of you and who's behind you. Don't get distracted.
- Walk purposefully, stand tall and make eye contact with people around you.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, leave.

Personal Protection

- Make yourself a "tough target".
- Don't think that it can't happen to you.
- Should you resist? Everyone and every situation is different.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- If being followed or stalked, call 911 or drive directly to a police station.

If You're Attacked

- Keep your head. Stay as calm as possible and evaluate your resources.
- It may be more advisable to submit than to resist and risk severe injury or death. You will have to make this decision based on the circumstances. But, don't resist if the attacker has a weapon.
- Keep assessing the situation as it is happening. If one strategy doesn't work, try another.
- Possible options include negotiation, stalling for time, distracting the assailant and fleeing to a safe place, verbal assertiveness, screaming, and physical resistance.
- You may be able to turn the attacker off with unusual behavior such as throwing up, acting crazy, or stating you have a sexually transmitted disease.

Public Transportation

- Try to use well-lighted and frequently used stops.
- Try to sit near the driver or conductor.
- Avoid sitting near exits. An attacker can reach in and grab a purse or jewelry as the bus or subway pulls away.
- Be alert to who gets off the bus or subway with you. If you feel uncomfortable, walk directly to a place where there are other people.

Home and Neighborhood

- Good locks, simple precautions, neighborhood awareness, and common sense can help prevent most property crimes.

What Your Children Need to Know

Children should know that guns are not toys, that guns are dangerous and can hurt people. If they see or find a gun (even if they think the gun looks like a toy) they should follow these three safety steps:

1. They should not touch or handle the gun.
2. They should get away.
3. They should immediately tell a trusted adult (parent, guardian, teacher or police officer) about the gun.

**For further information on Crime prevention please visit the Michigan State Police website.

SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDED CALL 762-0222 FOR ASSISTANCE

**Unlocks...Gas...Air Up Tires...Jump Starts...Criminal Complaints
Accident Reports...Medical Assistance...Lost & Found.**



For more information on domestic violence against women, contact: Sgt. Nancy Metcalfe (810)762-0052