

ROBBERY PREVENTION

We have all been told at one time or another to take a moment out of our hectic schedules to enjoy the small things around us... the sunset... dew on the grass... a child's smile... a loved one's laughter...and of course the sight and smell of beautiful roses. Paying attention to our surroundings is also a key element in robbery prevention.

- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Criminals count on you being preoccupied with shopping, banking or getting in/out of your vehicle instead of paying attention to them. Take a moment to observe who is in the parking area or close to the building before you exit your car. Does it make sense to walk past someone just standing around?

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- If the area is dark, you can't see if someone is hiding behind shrubbery, trees or other obstructions. At home install additional exterior lighting and keep shrubbery at windowsill level and trees trimmed to prevent hiding places. Speak with management about inadequate lighting or overgrown shrubbery around your apartment or businesses that you frequent.

- While walking, do not take short cuts through wooded or isolated areas, alleys, and dark, poorly lit areas. Plan your route.

If the area is unfamiliar to you, consider walking with a friend or travelling by car. If approached by a stranger, maintain the distance of an arm's length. Project a no-nonsense attitude and quickly walk away. Move with confidence and stay alert!

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- If you think you are being followed , cross the street, walk quickly or run to a busy store, restaurant, gas station or lighted house.
- If a car is following you, turn and run in the opposite direction. If you suspect that you are being followed while driving, don't drive home!
- Go to the nearest police station, fire station, or business. Blow your horn to draw attention to your vehicle while driving up to the location.
- Nothing that you carry in your purse or wallet is worth your life! If robbed, stay calm and don't resist!
- Get a good description of the attacker and call the police immediately.