

Personal Safety



**For emergencies,
call 9-1-1**

The odds of you being victimized by crime while in a public place is low. However, your personal safety is at risk anytime you go out. For this reason, you must protect yourself. Remember, criminals often plan crimes and look for the right opportunity with the easiest victim. Your best defense is to plan ahead. Being safer doesn't require you to change your lifestyle, personality, wardrobe or to stop going out. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office provides the following crime prevention measures to increase your personal safety and security.

At Home

- Have your key in hand when approaching the entryway.
- Wait outside if anything looks unusual (i.e. open door or broken window).
- Give the hide-a-key to a trusted neighbor.
- No personal identification on key rings.
- Change the locks if you lose your house keys.

Walking

- Avoid walking alone. Be confident and walk with purpose.
- Choose busy, well-lit streets and avoid isolated areas, alleys and vacant lots.
- Walk facing traffic to see approaching cars.
- Earphones make you less able to sense potential danger.
- Keep valuables in an inside pocket and hold your purse under your arm so it is harder to snatch.

Driving

- Keep your car in good running order.
- Plan your route in advance.
- Drive with the doors locked and windows rolled up.
- Carpooling is a safe alternative to driving alone.
- Don't stop if another driver tries to force you off the road.

Parking

- Choose well-lit parking areas.
- Keep valuables and packages locked in the trunk.
- Always remove the keys and lock the doors.
- Be alert in underground or enclosed parking garages.

Returning To Your Car

- Have your keys ready before getting to your car.
- Be aware of occupied cars around you.
- If you carry packages, keep one hand free.
- Check inside and around your car before unlocking the door.

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

- Memorize your personal identification number.
- Have everything ready before arriving.
- Be aware of people loitering and sitting in parked cars who may be watching customers transact business.
- Never use an ATM after dark.

Public Transportation

- Locate well-lit and frequently used bus stops.
- Check schedules in advance.
- Do not wait alone.
- Sit near the driver on busses.
- Immediately report incidents of verbal or physical harassment to the driver.

At Work

- Get involved with improving workplace security.
- Walk to and from the parking areas with other people.
- Avoid using the isolated and deserted stairways.
- If a suspicious person follows you into or is already in an elevator, get out immediately.
- Check restrooms before locking the door.

Outdoor Activities

- Advise someone of your route before leaving.
- Carry proper identification.
- Vary your route and schedule so you are not predictable.
- Avoid outdoor activities after dark.
- Carry the necessary tools in case of an emergency.
- Carry a personal alarm.

Remember this . . .

- Make safety a habit.
- Be alert to your surroundings.
- Everyone can't do everything, but everyone can do something!



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office | Neighborhood Watch/Crime Prevention
neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org | 425-388-7375 | <http://sheriff.snoco.org>