

Tips for Home...

- Don't allow strangers into your home, even if they are hurt or say they need help. Keep the door locked and call for them.
- Don't advertise that you live alone.
- Don't be afraid to call the police to investigate suspicious people, circumstances or strange noises. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- When you move, change the locks if you own the home or ask the manager to change them if you rent.
- Don't leave notes on the door announcing when you'll be home.
- Keep outdoor lights on at night.
- If you arrive home and see evidence of a break-in do NOT go inside; leave and call 911.
- For more tips on keeping your home safe, read the "Home Security" brochure.

Taking the Bus?

- Don't open your purse or wallet while waiting to board. Have your pass or money already in hand.
- Stay alert—and be aware of the people around you. If someone bothers you, change seats and/or tell the driver.
- Carry your wallet inside your coat, or in a front pocket.
- Keep your handbag in front of you and hold it close to your body with both hands.
- Check your purse or wallet if someone is jostling, crowding or pushing you.
- During off hours, sit close to the driver.

If a Crime Occurs –

REPORT IT!

Everyone should consider it his/her responsibility to report crime. Many criminals target favorite areas and have predictable methods of operation. When you report all the facts about a crime, it helps the police assign officers in the places where crimes are occurring or where they are most likely to occur. At least one out of two crimes in the United States goes unreported, either because people don't think law enforcement can do anything about it, or because they don't want to get involved. If you don't report a crime, the criminal can continue to operate without interference.



In many cases, it is the information provided by victims and witnesses that leads to the arrest of a criminal. So tell law enforcement as much as you can; no fact is too trivial. They need the eyes and ears of all citizens.

And remember—calling about suspicious activity is NEVER a "bother", it's what we do... it's our JOB.

Want to share this information with your neighbors? Consider hosting a Neighborhood Watch meeting. Personal Security is one of many topics we will cover. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (925) 931-5233 or (925) 931-5240.



PERSONAL SECURITY



Pleasanton Police Department

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(925) 931-5240

www.PleasantonPD.org



Make Life Harder for Criminals

This brochure is full of tips that can help you avoid becoming a victim of a crime when you are out and about or at work.

By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself, and also discourage those who commit crime.

Be Prepared

- Always be alert and aware of the people around you.
- Let a family member or friend know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return. That way, law enforcement can be notified if there is a problem.
- Check out the locations of police and fire stations, hospitals and restaurants or stores that are open late.

What is Robbery?

It isn't that robbers are around every corner, But they do take us by surprise and they can target anyone. The FBI defines robbery as "the taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm."

There are lots of things you can do to reduce your chances of being robbed. The most important thing to do in all circumstances is *give the robber what he or she wants; don't fight back and risk your life.* It simply isn't worth it.

Street Precautions

- Stay in well-lighted areas as much as possible. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas and shortcuts or secluded areas.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys where someone could hide.
- Walk confidently, and at a steady pace.
- Make eye contact with people when walking, but do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street, continue on.
- If you carry a purse, hold it securely between your arm and body.
- If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises.
- Never hitchhike or take rides from strangers.
- Don't display expensive jewelry or valuables in public.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work.
- When possible, travel with a friend—there's safety in numbers.

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

- Try to use machines you are familiar with and avoid independent terminals.
- Look around before conducting a transaction. If you see anyone or anything suspicious, cancel your transaction and go to another ATM.
- Don't use an ATM after hours, but if you must, make sure it's well-lighted.
- Never walk away from an ATM with cash still in hand. Wait to count your money.

Automobile Safety

- Always lock car doors after entering or leaving your car.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Watch out for loitering in parking lots and be alert to people just sitting in their cars.
- If you are alone at a shopping mall, ask security to escort you to your car.



- Have your key in your hand so you don't have to linger before getting into your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place.
- Don't stop to aid motorists stopped on the side of the road. Request help for them.
- The last thing you should do is argue or fight with a carjacker. You could be seriously injured or killed. *It isn't worth it.*
- Never agree to be kidnapped. Either drop the keys or throw them away from the car as far as you can. When the carjacker goes for the keys, get out of there as fast as you can.



Be Phone Savvy

Program the Pleasanton Police Department's phone number (925-931-5100) into your phone. If you call 911 from your cell phone in most parts of the city it will go straight to our dispatch center, but if you are close to a freeway it will not. Also program police numbers of those cities you work in or frequent.