



SAFETY TIPS AND REMINDERS

Being safe requires making wise personal choices that help prevent you from becoming a victim of crime.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

- Be aware of your surroundings - Criminals don't like witnesses and will generally avoid people who look alert. Trust your instincts, because they may save you from danger.
- Avoid dangerous situations such as jogging or walking alone at night. Whenever possible, walk or jog with friends.
 - › Avoid exercising outside alone at night. If you must go out, stay away from trees or shrubbery that block your view. Wear reflective gear. Tell someone how far you are going, your route, and when you expect to return.
 - › Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets.
 - › Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots or alleys.
 - › Know where to go if you need help.
 - › If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street - If they are still there, move quickly toward a lighted house.
 - › Carry a cell phone and don't be afraid to call or yell for help. Carry a flashlight. Carry a bat or golf club to protect yourself against rabid animals like a dog or coyote.
- Call police about anything you see that seems suspicious. Report AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Don't talk yourself out of it! Just do it!
- Have your car or house key in your hand before you reach the door. Also, it may be a good idea to have an extra set of car key close to your bed. If you hear a noise outside of your home or someone trying to enter your house, you can press the panic button on your car alarm.

HOME SAFETY TIPS

- Always lock your doors and windows when you are not at home, during the day and at night.
- Change your code on your garage door/remote control device.
- Don't leave notes on the door when going out.
- When leaving for an extended period of time (days or weeks), you should:
 - › Notify the police and a neighbor and leave

emergency contact information, who is allowed to be at the house and what vehicles will be there.

- › Cancel deliveries such as newspapers, UPS, FEDEX, and mail. Newspapers on your driveway is a clear sign you are not home, haven't been home, and an open invitation for a burglar!
- › Have someone mow the lawn, take out the garbage and remove the garbage
- › Use a timer to turn on and off the lights and leave curtains open.
- › Notify police and neighbors upon your return.
- › Never hide your keys under the door mat or mailbox or in conspicuous places
- › If you find your door or a window open and suspect someone inside, "DON'T GO IN THE HOUSE". Leave immediately and call 911. Wait in a safe place and listen to the 911 dispatcher.
- › Lights: Burglars hate well-lit homes.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Never let stranger{s} into your house. EVER!
- If someone is soliciting, DON'T OPEN THE DOOR! Tell them to go away or you will call the police! They usually know about the non-solicitation signs so don't fall for their plea of innocence.
- If the person{s} are representing workers from utility companies, or delivery services, don't rely solely on a uniform or his claims, again ask for photo I.D. and credentials.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lighted area.
- Always lock your vehicle doors and remove valuable items {cameras, money, laptop computers, GPS units, CD's and purses}
- Be alert of suspicious activity, vehicles and persons in the area.
- To report an incident or emergency CALL "911".
- Report an incident to "911" ASAP, do not wait to call. Make every effort to be a first party caller. Important information can be lost if reported by a third party.

These safety tips and reminders are brought to you by Larry Harvey, Overlook Safety & Security (safety@oamcc.org)