

# Safety Sense

## *Protect Yourself*



October is National Crime Prevention Month and a great time to review the current crime prevention precautions you, your family and your business take and determine if improvements or new tactics can be implemented. Here are some steps you should incorporate to tighten up how you approach crime prevention.

- When you're walking around, be an ultra-aware pedestrian. Keep your eyes on your surroundings; stay in well lit areas; when possible walk with others; and stay in crosswalks when crossing the street.
- Consider learning a form of self-defense like Jiu Jitsu, Karate, Taekwondo, or Judo.
- Make certain your door and window locks work properly and always lock your doors, windows, garage and any connecting door between the garage and home.
- Don't place a spare key under a planter or doormat where criminals will look. Instead, have a nearby, trusted neighbor or friend hold a spare key for you.
- Illuminate walkways and stairways and keep the lights set on a timer. This is key when you're away, so your home or business appear to have activity.
- Keep any trees and bushes around your home or business trimmed back to eliminate hiding places.
- When driving, keep alert and aware at all times, and lock all car doors as soon as you get in your car.
- Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you're away from your car, even for "just a minute."
- Park your car in well-lit areas with the windows rolled up and doors locked and never leave any valuables in plain sight.
- When getting gas, pick a station that's well-lit with surveillance cameras, and always remove your keys and lock the doors while you are pumping gas.
- Never give personal information to someone who calls, texts, or emails you. There are millions of scammers out there looking to take advantage of unsuspecting people.
- Be cautious about sharing your life on social media, like posting photos while on vacation. Remember that a lot of what you share can often be accessed by strangers who will now know you're away.
- Stay informed of crime trends and patterns in your community and sign up for local law enforcement alerts and participate in community crime prevention initiatives.
- Always trust your "gut!" If you feel unsafe or threatened, remove yourself from the situation.

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility and by implementing these tips (and sharing them with family, friends and employees), you can help reduce your chances of being a target for certain types of crimes. Working together, we can build safer, stronger, and more resilient communities.

