



Crime prevention and safety tips

Board of County Commissioners | Criminal Justice Liaison

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Quick Facts:

- *408,217 robberies were committed in the United States in 2009 resulting in an estimated \$508 million in losses.*¹
- *806,843 aggravated assaults occurred in the United States in 2009.*¹

10 Ways to Keep Yourself Safe

1. If you exercise, don't run or walk early in the morning or late at night when streets are deserted. Also, vary your route and the time you run. Stick to well-lighted roads with pavements. If you wear a headset, keep the volume low so you can hear anyone approaching you from behind.
2. Always keep your car doors locked, whether you are driving or the car is parked in the driveway.
3. Make sure you have your key in your hand as you approach your car or your front door.
4. Press the panic button on your car key to set off the alarm if someone frightens or follows you. Many car alarms can be triggered from 45 to 100 feet away.
5. Carry only the money you'll need on a particular day or carry "mugger's money" - a wallet with \$20 to \$50 in small bills that's easily accessed and separate from your other valuables.
6. Program your cell phone with 9-1-1 and the number of your local police department both on speed dial for two emergency options to call.
7. Carry your purse close to you with the clasp facing inward. If someone grabs your bag, or demands your money, let it go.
8. If your life is being threatened, yell clear messages or orders. Shout phrases such as "stop," "back off," "leave me alone," or "the police are on the way." If others are around, shout "call the police." Yelling "help" often makes people afraid for their own safety and unsure of what to do.
9. If you think someone is following you, switch directions, or cross the street—more than once if necessary. Move into a well-lighted area if you are on a dark street. Move quickly into an open store or restaurant if one is nearby.
10. Potential victims are people who are distracted or vulnerable. Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. Remember the most important thing is your personal safety, not your possessions.

¹Federal Bureau of Investigation

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, fax it to 813-276-2630 for consideration for a future Crime Prevention and Safety Tip. If you have questions regarding this tip, call 813-276-2033.