



# ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

### Personal Safety Awareness



#### AWAY FROM YOUR RESIDENCE:

- Always be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts
- Be aware of other people around you and make note of their behavior
- Walk with authority and purpose while noticing people and activity around you
- Have your keys ready when approaching your vehicle (and residence) and do not have several items in your hands. If you are shopping, periodically take purchased items to the car and lock them in the trunk or away from view.
- Lock all personal items in the trunk or away from view – roll up windows, lock doors, and take keys.
- Park in well lit areas with a lot of activity. Park as close to the entrance as possible.
- **Avoid carrying a purse whenever possible.** Place wallet and/or money and credit cards in a front pocket or jacket pocket. Carry only items necessary for a particular outing.
- If you must carry a purse, never leave it open; carry it close to your body with flap facing inward; and place strap around your shoulder (never wrap it around your body or neck).
- If you carry a defensive object (pepper spray, etc.) have proper training first.
- Use personal body alarm, whistle, etc.
- Notify a trusted neighbor or family member where you are going and when you are expected back.
- If you notice a suspicious person or activity in a parking lot near your car, return to the store and ask for an escort and notify security or store management.

#### IN YOUR VEHICLE:

- Keep all doors locked.
- Place purse and other valuables out of sight (when traveling and parked).
- Don't travel in curbside lane, especially at a stoplight.
- Be aware of your surroundings when stopped at a light – be aware of people approaching your car.
- Don't stop too close to the car in front of you. Allow enough space to “pull around.”
- If you are followed, drive to a safe, active, and well lit location (don't drive home) and quickly leave your vehicle and go inside to call the police and request assistance or stay in the locked vehicle and draw attention.
- Use a cell phone to call the police, but don't let it distract your driving.
- Avoid any confrontation while driving, no matter how minor.

#### AT YOUR RESIDENCE:

- Get to know your neighbor and establish trusted relationships. Encourage them to watch out for you, your family and your residence. Consider starting a Neighborhood Watch program.
- Make sure the lighting on the exterior of the residence illuminates the entire area.
- Each entrance should have solid core doors and deadbolt locks with a minimum of a one-inch throw.
- All primary window locks should be operational and secondary locks should be installed.
- Trim all bushes down and up from the ground. Trim trees up 6-8 feet from the ground.
- Place lights, radios, and TV on timers to give the appearance someone is home when away.
- Don't stop mail and newspaper delivery. Have a trusted neighbor collect them and place/remove trash carts in the typical location when away. Also, ask them to keep an eye on your residence.
- Let neighbors, family, and friends know when you will return from a trip.

Contact APD Crime Prevention at 924-3600 for additional information