



## City of Bloomington Police Department

### **PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS**

We must all take responsibility for our personal safety and do what we can to minimize our vulnerability in becoming a possible victim of a crime. How you respond to an emergency situation involving yourself and those involving others *can* make a difference in the outcome of the incident.

The Bloomington Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe and you are encouraged to call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency. Non-emergency calls should be directed to 339-4477.

Here are some safety tips addressing your personal safety when out in public, safety while in your residence and while in your vehicle.

#### **PERSONAL SAFETY**

- Be especially aware of your surroundings at times when you may be less alert and more vulnerable to an attack (e.g., during periods of stress) when you are upset or sick, or if you have been drinking.
- Avoid using cell phones or texting when walking so that you can remain focused on awareness and your personal safety.
- Use discretion and caution when taking shortcuts through alleys or areas with inadequate lighting.
- Try to use the “buddy system” and have someone with you rather than walking alone at night.
- Let someone know where you will be and when you can be expected to be home or at another designation.
- Whenever you see or hear someone who might be in trouble call 9-1-1 immediately.

#### **SAFETY IN YOUR HOME**

- Take security precautions seriously for your own protection.
- Install and use locks on your doors and windows.
- Place dowel rods or similar devices in the tracks of sliding patio doors or windows.

- Place a lamp or other lighting near bedroom windows to avoid being “silhouetted” at night when changing clothes.
- Turn horizontal blinds “up” when closing to make seeing inside more difficult. (This is especially important for ground level or basement windows).
- Keep doors locked day or night whether you are home or not. Also, keep doors locked even if you are going to be gone only a few minutes.
- Know who is at the door before opening it. Insist on seeing an ID from anyone you do not know.
- If someone comes to your door and asks to use your telephone to call for help, offer instead to make the call for them.
- Maintain good lighting around entrances.
- Trim bushes and trees around windows to prevent places where people can secret themselves to look into your residence.
- If you leave for an extended vacation, take high-value personal property with you.
- Give your home a "someone is home" look. Put radio and lights on a timer.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a neighbor retrieve them for you
- Have someone cut your grass in the summer or shovel your driveway and walkways in the winter.
- Leave spare keys with a friend and not in accessible places.
- Keep emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Notify law enforcement of suspicious individuals who appear to be "hanging around".

### **SAFETY IN YOUR VEHICLE**

- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Lock your doors when driving and after parking.
- Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car.
- Check the backseat and floor before entering your car.
- Keep your valuables out of sight, under the seat, or in the glove compartment or trunk.