

## Personal Safety Tips



The Delaware State Police would like to offer the following tips that can help you avoid becoming a victim of a crime when you are out and about. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself, and also discourage those who commit crimes. Burglars, robbers, and thieves seek primarily to remove cash or property. Many such intruders are capable of harming people with little provocation, so whether at work, at home, or out on the street, these precautions should be taken.

### **While You Are Out:**

- Whenever possible travel in pairs especially in hours of darkness.
- Inform someone of your current location, route of travel, and destination.
- Avoid unlit, secluded areas and parking lots.
- If in a retail or commercial setting request an escort to your vehicle from an employee or security guard.
- Keep your head up and visually scan your intended route of travel.
- Remove ear buds and don't be distracted by your cellular device.
- When walking to your vehicle have your keys ready for quick entry into your vehicle.
- Once in your vehicle immediately lock all doors.
- TRUST YOUR GUT: If you feel uneasy about someone or something do not proceed and return to a safe area.
- If confronted always surrender property and belongings, they can be replaced.
- If at all possible never agree to enter a vehicle or go to a secluded location with someone.
- SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING: If in progress call 911, otherwise call the non-emergency number at 302-573-2800

### **If An Attack Occurs:**

- Use common sense. Try to talk your way out of it.
- Try to negotiate.
- Stall for time.

- Be verbally assertive.
- Distract or divert the assailant, then flee. Run toward an open business or a group of people. Hide if you get the opportunity.
- Scream loudly and keep it up to attract attention and help from people near by.
- If the attacker threatens you with a deadly weapon, and you come out of it alive, you took the proper course of action. During an armed attack, you must decide the proper course of action. There is no hard and fast rule as to self defense. You must consider your physical capabilities, your location, and your perceived chances of success. If you cannot escape, bide your time and look for another opportunity, a half-hearted attempt could be worse than no attempt at all.