

ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION TIPS

PREVENTION **The first step in protecting yourself is to realize that you could be a victim of a crime. The best prevention is to avoid potential crime situations. Always be aware of your surroundings--- people, landscape, buildings -- and plan where you could run for help if you need it. Thinking through and rehearsing how to foil an attack, can prepare you to act quickly if a crime offers.**

Not all crimes (assaults) can be prevented. However, the following precautions are thought to reduce a person's chance of being attacked. Choose among them for ways that you can increase your safety while maintaining your life style.

ON FOOT

- * If sidewalks are dark, walk near the curb or down the middle of the street.
- * Be aware of houses with lights on, or open businesses, in case you have to run for help.
- * Wear comfortable clothing and shoes that you can run in.
- * Be aware of people and cars around you. Take note of any activity which seems unusual to you.
- * Always walk briskly and confidently.
- * If you walk to the same destination frequently, vary your route.
- * Carry a whistle on your key chain or carry a hand alarm, keep it in your hand ready to use.
- * If you are being followed by a vehicle, turn around and walk quickly in the opposite direction.
- * If you suspect someone is following you, turn around confidently and check, if so, scream loudly, blow your whistle or activate your personal alarm while running to a safe area.

AT HOME

- * Make sure all doors have good dead bolt locks and a chain lock and peephole.
- * Be sure all windows have locks, for sliding doors or windows, place a wooden or metal rod between the movable pane and the opposite casing.
- * Use your locks, make sure you lock your doors and windows, even when you are leaving for only a few minutes, and when you are inside.
- * Be careful about who you let into your home, insist that visitors identify themselves before opening your door.
- * If a service person comes to your door, ask the individual to produce an ID. If you have any doubts, ask the person to wait outside while you call their supervisor or company to confirm their identity.
- * Never tell a stranger that you are home alone. Create a fictitious roommate and list them on your mailbox.
- * If you suspect someone is on your home when you return, don't enter your residence, contact a neighbor and contact your local police department.

IN YOUR VEHICLE

- * Check the back seat of your vehicle before entering.
- * Always walk around your vehicle before entering.
- * Look for suspicious persons in the vicinity of your vehicle, if you can get into the vehicle safely do so, then lock the doors immediately, if you can't get into your vehicle safely, then go to a safe area, until you can return to your vehicle.
- * When walking to your locked vehicle, have the keys ready in your hand to open the car door, then unlock the car door, enter and immediately lock the doors.
- * If you must leave your car with a parking attendant, leave only your ignition key.
- * If you suspect your vehicle is being followed, drive to a busy, well lit location and contact your local police department. Do not let them follow you home.
- * If you have car trouble, raise your hood, then get back in your car and wait. IF another motorist offers to help, roll your window down an inch and ask them to go and phone for help. Do not get into their vehicle.
- * Remember all pay phones, will let you call for help, free! Dial 911 or operator (O).
- * Park in a well lit area.

GENERAL SAFETY

- * When you enter elevators, always locate the emergency button and stay near it.
- * While waiting for public transportation, stay in well lit or heavy traffic areas. This will allow you to observe and stay in control.
- * Remember safety is a state of mind, you do that which allows you to maintain control of the situation.

None of us can ever be sure we will not become the victim of a crime. Some assaults are just not preventable. The goal is to reduce the likelihood of an assault by not being an easy target. It is not silly or paranoid to take precautions that increase your safety. You are worth it.

**ANN ARBOR POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT
994-8775
AEL-AYOUBI@CIANN-ARBOR.MI.US**