

Stay Alert, Keep Safe.

PERSONAL SAFETY



Avoid becoming a victim of a crime while in public. 11 simple steps that can help.

- 11. Take self-defense classes.** When you have no option other than to stand your ground, it is good to know how to defend yourself and your family.
- 10. Have your keys ready when approaching your parked vehicle.** Upon arrival, observe the rear seat, and even underneath your car. Lock your car doors as soon as you get inside.
- 9. Keep a secure grip on your purse or bag, and close to your body.** Do not allow it to dangle. Keep fasteners and zippers closed. However, if threatened by a demand for your purse, do not choose your purse over your personal safety and wellbeing. If you are a victim of a purse snatch, contact the police with a description of the subject and direction of travel.
- 8. Do not resist if someone wants your property.** If someone approaches you and wants your purse, or wallet, give it up, it's not worth getting into a fight over, or worse. After complying, go to a safe place and call the police.
- 7. Stay in populated, well-lit areas.** An attacker or thief is less likely to accost a person who is in a well-lit populated area because they don't want witnesses to see them.
- 6. Display an aware, confident attitude.** Attackers case out their victims, and are more likely to attack someone who appears scared and weak rather than confident. Walk with your head up, and stay alert.
- 5. Make eye contact with people when walking.** This lets people know you are confident and aware of your surrounds. If you are victimized, it also helps you be a good witness when talking to the police.
- 4. When possible, walk with a friend.** Attackers look for people alone as they make easier targets. Walking with another person, or in a group, reduces the risk of you being a victim.
- 3. Be aware of strangers.** Be cautious with strangers who ask for directions, or money. As innocent as these encounters may seem, it may be an attempt to draw you near to be victimized. Never let your guard down. Remember to keep a good distance between yourself and the inquiring individual. Either don't respond to questions, or answer with brief, firm statements
- 2. Be alert to your surroundings and other people, especially in the dark.** If you hear footsteps behind you, look over your shoulder, and change your direction of travel. Walk into a nearby business or building where other people are present. Criminals do not like to victimize individuals in witness-rich environments. If at all possible, avoid putting yourself in isolated areas.
- 1. Trust your instincts.** You know that feeling you get that makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up? Trust it!

Remember, be cautious. Palos Verdes Estates and the Palos Verdes Peninsula remain safe for residents and visitors through individual awareness, community involvement and common sense actions. Call 911 when ever safety is at risk.

PALOS VERDES ESTATES POLICE DEPARTMENT

340 PALOS VERDES DRIVE WEST, PALOS VERDES ESTATES, CA 90274 (310) 378-4211