



Crime Prevention

Norwalk Police Department

Personal Safety Tips

Safety is everyone's business! TOP 10 tips:

1. Know your surroundings-360 degrees
2. Lock your doors and windows
3. Don't leave your valuables in your car (If you must, use the trunk)
4. Know your neighbors and be sure they know you
5. Don't talk to strangers
6. Walk with confidence and be ready (see #1)
7. Don't flash cash
8. Take a friend
9. Walk in the light
10. Practice Random Irregularity

Understandably, no one wishes to believe they might become a victim of a crime; however, denial of the problem solves nothing and may actually place you at greater risk of becoming a victim.

You must be prepared to be safe. Prevention is always better than reaction. Learn to practice safety every single day! While things like personal alarms, tear gas, a weapon or even self-defense tactics may help in a bad situation, it is important to understand they are all reactive, designed to be utilized when the problem is actually occurring. It is significantly more effective to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place.

The FBI publishes an annual "Crime in the United States" report. This FBI report includes a "Crime Clock" that shows how frequently crimes were committed in 2010: there was one property crime in the U.S. every 3.5 seconds and one violent crime every 25.3 seconds. Here's the breakdown:

- One Larceny/Theft every 5.1 seconds
- One Burglary every 14.6 seconds
- One Motor Vehicle Theft every 42.8 seconds
- One Aggravated Assault every 40.5 seconds
- One Robbery every 1.4 minutes
- One Forcible Rape every 6.2 minutes
- One Murder every 35.6 minutes

Crime pervades our lives! But there are some things you can do to lessen your risk of becoming a victim. This information, while not all-inclusive, will provide valuable suggestions in regard to making yourself and your family safer. Nothing is 100% effective. However, well learned and utilized safety tips will certainly improve your opportunity to Live Safely!