

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

CRIMINALS LOOK FOR EASY TARGETS

Read how to **NOT** be a target.



Protect your:

- Self



- Home



- Property

- Vehicle



Protect Yourself

Avoid potential scams including:

- Schemes that require you to put up “good faith” money;
- Investments that promise unusually high returns;
- Home repair costs well below the norm;
- Services requiring cash only payments or payment before work begins;
- At home business opportunities that require money down.
- Hang up on any demanding or suspicious callers.

Avoid being an easy target for robbery:

- Do not open your door to strangers.
- Always ask to see a solicitor’s permit issued by the city.
- Walk on well-lighted, busy streets. Stay away from vacant lots, alleys, and deserted streets, even if they are the shortest route.
- Keep your wallet in an inside jacket or front pants pocket.
- If you carry a purse, hold it close to your body. Don’t dangle it. Never leave your purse in the shopping cart.
- Do not display large amounts of cash in stores or public places. Don’t put your wallet or purse on the counter while you examine the merchandise.

If the attacker is only after your valuables, don’t resist. Make a conscious effort to get a description of the attacker and immediately call the police.

Avoid being a victim of identity theft:

- Hang up on unsolicited phone calls asking for personal information and do not use any phone numbers they give you.
- Check out all persons or companies before doing business with them.
- Do not place personal mail in your home mailbox (take it inside the post office).
- Shred personal documents before discarding.
- Do not open e-mails from unknown sources.
- Check bank and credit statements frequently.
- Use credit, not debit, card for online buying.
- Look for “https” on a URL (website address) to make sure the website is secure.

Protect Your Home & Property

Secure your home:

- Exterior doors should be solid wood or metal.
- Replace original door locks with more secure deadbolts (longer screws, at least 3”).
- Place bar/broom handle in sliding door tracks.
- Close your garage door when not in your view.
- Lock door from garage into house.
- Keep your porches, entrances and garages well-lighted and windows free of shrubbery.
- Keep all window curtains closed at night.
- Keep unused doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Consider installing an alarm system and/or a real (or fake) video camera system.
- Install a wide-angle peephole to identify strangers who come to the door.
- Do not hide door keys outside.
- If you are absent overnight,
 - Leave light(s) on random timers.
 - Notify neighbors.
- If you are absent for an extended period,
 - Cancel newspaper and mail or arrange for pickup.
 - Arrange for yard care.
 - Fill out “Out of Town Slip” and drop off at U.C. Police dispatch.

Secure your valuables:

- Don't keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Consider paying all your bills electronically.
- After purchasing high value items (e.g., large HD TVs), do not place the empty boxes on the curb.
- Mark valuables with personal ID and keep a list in safe place (Operation ID).
- If you suspect a burglar has broken into your home, do not go in. Go quietly to a neighbor and call **911**.

Protect Your Vehicle

- Park your car inside the garage.
- Use lock nuts on expensive wheels.
- Remove handle from automatic garage door release rope.
- Park in well-lighted, busy areas and lock your car doors.
- Never leave keys in the ignition when you leave the car, even for a few minutes.
- Don't leave packages or other tempting articles in view in a locked car. Lock them in the trunk.
- Have your car key in hand as you approach your vehicle. Look in the front and back seat before entering the car. If there are suspicious persons near your vehicle, return to the store or public place.
- Register your vehicle with the Texas Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T) program: <https://records.txdps.state.tx.us>

Report All Suspicious Activities

EXAMPLES

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home.
- Vehicles moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.

HOW TO REPORT

- Emergencies: 9-1-1
Non-emergencies: 658-5353, Ext. 1
- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Describe suspect:
sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, and distinctive characteristics such as facial hair, scars, or accent.
- Describe any vehicle:
color, make, model, license plate, and unique features such as dents or stickers.

Resources

- Attend the free Universal City Citizens Police Academy. Sign up at: registrar@uccpaaa.org or call 658-5353, Ext. 526.
- Visit the Universal City Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association website, uccpaaa.org to view or download:
 - Crime prevention literature
 - Home security checklist
 - Neighborhood Watch program info
 - Crime alert articles
 - City crime reports
 - Senior Citizen crime prevention info

Universal City Contacts

Emergencies or crimes in progress: **911**

Police **658-5353**

Fire **659-1250**

City Administration **659-0333**

www.universalcitytexas.com