

# THE RISK OBSERVER

Safety Information for Residents

## YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

### When Walking

Plan the safest route to your destination and use it. Choose well-lighted, busy streets and avoid passing vacant lots, alleys, or construction sites. Take the long way if it's the safest.

Don't flaunt expensive jewelry or clothing. Carry your purse close to your body and keep a firm grip on it. Carry a wallet in an inside coat or side trouser pocket, not in a rear pocket.

Don't overburden yourself with packages and groceries that make it hard to react. Have your car key or house key in your hand as you approach your vehicle or home.

If you suspect you are being followed by someone on foot, cross the street and head for the nearest well-lighted, populated area. Walk quickly or run to a house or a store to call police. If you are really scared, scream for help.

### Tips For Home

Make sure all your exterior doors have locks in working order. Report broken door or window locks immediately. Always make sure you lock up when you go out – even for a few minutes.

Secure sliding glass doors with bars, locks or put a wooden dowel or broom handle in the door track.

Don't hide door keys under the doormat or anywhere outside. It's much safer to leave an extra key with a trusted neighbor or a nearby friend.

### Community Tips

Do your part to see that lights in common areas, parking lots, stairways, etc. are in working order. Report lights that are burned out or damaged to the community office. Make sure that outside doors that are supposed to be locked are working properly and are not blocked open.

Help local law enforcement do its job by reporting suspicious activities and any crimes. They can't help unless they know there is a problem.

**STAY ALERT** - Keep your mind on your surroundings; who's in front of you and who's behind you. If you're worried about crime, ask a friend to accompany you when you go out.

**LOOK CALM** - Give the appearance that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going. Stand tall, walk purposefully, and make quick eye contact with people around you.

**TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS** - If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.