Personal Security

Safe City Factsheet Series Issue 4: Personal Security

By international standards Sydney is a safe city and you can play an important role in maintaining the safety of yourself and your property.

Tips for personal security

1. Avoid walking alone at night
   Try to walk with other people at night. If alone, walk in well-lit areas or catch a taxi even if you're only going a short distance.

2. Protect your bag or briefcase
   Carry your bag or briefcase securely on the side furthest from the road to reduce the risk of bag snatching. Make sure your bag is zipped up and not easily accessible.

3. Be cautious when using ATMs *
   Be alert when withdrawing cash and don't count money in view of other people. Be cautious when using ATMs in isolated areas or dark locations.

4. Be aware of your surroundings
   Be alert and aware of what's going on around you. Wearing headphones, or texting/talking on your mobile can reduce your alertness and can make you more vulnerable to personal crime.

5. Be confident and assertive
   Walking with confidence, using strong body language and making eye contact with others will reduce your risk of being targeted.

6. Isolated areas are a risk
   Try to keep to populated areas with lots of activity whether you're exercising, or just out and about, especially at night.

7. Don't carry large amounts of cash
   Never carry more cash than you need.

8. Keep your purse or wallet secure
   Always keep your purse or wallet in a secure place close to your body, such as in a money belt or an inaccessible pocket.

9. Alcohol consumption can be a risk
   Excessive alcohol consumption may result in increased risk of danger. When leaving premises be careful on the footpath and roads and watch out for each other.

10. Carry your mobile phone or phone card with you
    When you're out and about, even if jogging or exercising, always carry your mobile phone or a phone card with you in case of an incident.
    Make sure you list key contact numbers under "ICE Numbers" (In Case of an Emergency) on your phone or phone card.

For emergency assistance:
Dial 000 from mobile phones, even if locked

Five Fast Facts

1. Personal crimes include: assault, sexual assault, threats, robbery, theft and rape.*

2. Personal crime offenders target people that they perceive as being vulnerable or fearful.*

3. Most offenders hope to avoid confrontation and being caught.

4. You can dial “000" for emergencies even if your mobile phone is locked.

5. Males aged 15-24 years are the most common victims of assault, though the likelihood is still relatively low. **

* Australian Institute of Criminology, 2005
** Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2004