

# San Leandro Police Department

# Personal Safety Tips

*Don't be a victim!*

The news is full of stories about people who have been victims of a crime and everyone cringes when they hear these reports. Who hasn't feared becoming one of these victims? Everyone - and this applies to residents of big cities, small towns, and even rural areas - needs to be careful. However, if people are vigilant and take common-sense precautions, crime can be prevented. Here are a few tips to follow:

## TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY

- Stay in well-lit areas.
- Walk near the curb — away from shrubbery and locations where someone could be hiding.
- Walk against traffic so that cars cannot surprise you from behind.
- Keep an arm's length away from strangers.
- If you think someone suspicious is approaching or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.
- Avoid illegal behaviors, such as buying or using narcotics, which increase the likelihood of being targeted for robbery.

## DON'T MAKE IT OBVIOUS THAT YOU ARE IN UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

- Giving the appearance of not paying attention and not being alert are what suspects look for in a victim. (Not surprisingly, many victims are robbed while talking on their cell phones.)

*(Continued on reverse side)*



This is a publication of the Crime Prevention Unit,  
San Leandro Police Department  
901 East 14th Street, San Leandro CA 94577

Sergeant Luis Torres 577-3247  
Officer Tim DeGrano 577-3248  
Officer Kerri Kovach 577-3252



*(Continued from reverse side)*

- Stay sober enough to take care of yourself. Criminals view impaired persons as easy prey.
- Walk briskly and with confidence.

### **AT NIGHT, AVOID PUBLIC PARKS, VACANT LOTS, ALLEYS AND AREAS WITH EXCESSIVE TREES AND BUSHES**

- Know which stores and other public places are open along your route.
- Do not hesitate to run back to where you came from to get help.
- Look for anyone “hanging around” your car or your path to your car.
- Have your keys in your hand and be ready to open the car door.

### **STREET ROBBERY: DO'S AND DON'TS**

- Never wrap a purse strap around your wrist; forcible removal could result in serious injury.
- Keeping cash in a separate money clip or pouch will allow you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards, identification and personal papers.
- **RELEASE THE PURSE.** Do not risk personal injury.
- Obey the robber's instructions.
- Make a mental note of the robber's appearance (i.e., height, weight, hair color/style, clothing, etc.)
- If possible, take down the vehicle license plate number, a description of the vehicle, and the direction the robber is going.
- **Call 9-1-1 immediately!!!**

**REMEMBER — Don't make it easy for a robber to make you a victim.**

For more information, contact the San Leandro Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at (510) 577-3247 or go to the National Crime Prevention Council website ([www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)).