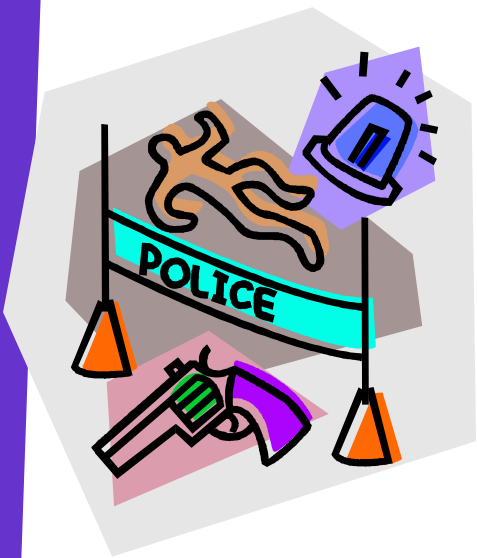




Hillsborough County Florida

Street Wise Crime Prevention Tips

Be more aware of your surroundings because practicing unsafe behaviors when you are out alone makes you vulnerable. (This is especially true for women and teens.) And when you're vulnerable you are more likely to become a victim. *So, make a habit of:*



Not talking on a phone while walking to or from your vehicle. Practice this tip day and night—while on the phone most people are distracted and not focused the environment.

Having your keys ready when you get to the door, at your car, home or work. While searching for your keys you tend to be distracted and not focused on what else is going on.

Locking the door behind you when getting into or out of your vehicle. Don't forget to practice this tip at the gas pump. You'll avoid leaving your key in the ignition—while you are inside paying—so no one could enter your car. (It's a good tip even if you pay at the pump.)

Not walking alone in parking lots or garages, - especially after dark. And if you must go to your vehicle alone, then be sure to park in a lot with good security and lighting for added safety when you return.

Keeping car windows rolled up at night. If the window is down and you are stopped for any reason, it is easy for someone to reach in and steal your valuables or harm you.

Leaving room between you and the car in front of you when you are stopped and practice not stopping door to door with the drivers in the other travel lanes. You'll have room to maneuver if someone approaches and you minimize face-to-face contact with other drivers who might have road-rage.

Remembering to use the key fob and activate your vehicle's alarm if you are in trouble. Odds are someone will hear the alarm or honking and that could draw enough attention to scare someone away.

The Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015 . These tips are provided by Criminal Justice and they are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, please fax it to 276-2630 for

Special thanks to Elaine Thomas, Code Enforcement, for her contribution!

