

Personal Safety and Security

General Safety Recommendations

The **3 MAJOR THINGS** to pay attention to according to the National Crime Prevention website are:

1. **STAYING ALERT AND TUNED INTO YOUR SURROUNDINGS, WHEREVER YOU ARE.**
2. **STANDING TALL, LOOKING UP (not down), AND WALKING CONFIDENTLY.**
3. **TRUSTING YOUR INSTINCTS. IF YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IN A PLACE OR SITUATION, QUICKLY LEAVE.**

In case of an emergency

Off campus:

Dial 911

On campus:

Dial 911

Or dial 5555 from any campus phone

Safety Tips for Walkers

- Get to know your neighbors and the neighborhoods where you live and work.
- Choose busy streets and avoid passing vacant lots, alleys, poorly lit areas, or deserted construction sites.
- After dark, use buses.
- If you must walk alone after dark, carry a flashlight for visibility. Plan out a route in advance.
- Carry your purse or bag close to your body, and keep a firm grip on it. Carry a wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket. If someone stops you with a weapon, don't resist! It is better to give up your valuables than your life.
- In case of an emergency, cry "fire" instead of "help."
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash (i.e. \$100 or more)
- If your neighborhood has a list serv, consider joining it.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Always lock your car while driving and when you leave your car parked (even if for a minute!)
- Consider joining AAA at www.aaacarolinias.com, an automobile club that provides roadside assistance when you need it.
- When you drive, be on the lookout for any problems that affect the neighborhood's well-being – abandoned cars, missing signs, malfunctioning traffic lights, reckless drivers, or poor street lighting. Report any problems to the police.
- Keep your car in good running condition and the gas tank at least a quarter full.
- If your car breaks down, raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the street-side door handle. Stay in the locked car. If someone stops to help, ask him or her to call for assistance.
- Always park in well-lighted areas.
- Always carry an emergency kit in your car that contains a flashlight, flares, and first aid kit.
- Never hitchhike. Never pick up hitchhikers. **Never.**

Safety Tips at Home

- Make sure all your exterior doors and all windows have good locks. Secure windows and doors during the day and night, even when you are at home. If you live on the ground floor, keep windows closed and locked at night while sleeping.
- If you lock your doors and windows and find them unsecured when you return home, do not enter and call 911.
- Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available bars or locks.
- If someone knocks on your door, verify his or her identity before you open the door. If you do not know the person, **do not open your door.** This is not rude.
- Trim any bushes or trees that hide doors or windows. If renting, tell management about any overgrown bushes or trees.
- Don't hide your keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. It is much better to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.
- Get to know your neighbors and the neighborhoods where you live and work.