



TAKE PRECAUTIONS, BE AWARE, STAY SAFE

Tips to help keep you out of harm's way

Anyone can become a crime victim. Unfortunately, no single method will stop a crime or completely protect an individual. However, with the right information and actions, you can reduce your risk and improve your sense of personal safety. Prevention is your best protection against crime. Often your common sense plays the most important role in prevention; other times it takes proactive thinking to keep you safe.



HOW TO STAY SAFE

DO walk in the middle of the sidewalk rather than near a building or along the curb.

DO be alert when approached by a stranger asking for directions. Project a no-nonsense attitude.

DO hold your purse tightly against your body. Your wallet should be kept in your front pants pocket or jacket pocket.

DO use busier, better-lighted stops on public transit. Sit near the bus driver or in subway cars with several other passengers.

DO switch directions or cross the street if you think someone is following you. Walk toward a busy store or restaurant or a lighted house. Yell for help if you feel threatened.

DON'T feel bullied by people who look you in the eye. Look them in the eyes. Eye contact makes everyone somewhat uneasy—use it to your advantage.

DON'T wear headphones—they can keep you from hearing someone approaching.

DON'T go near a stranger's vehicle to answer a question, even if it's just about directions.

DON'T let yourself be distracted. Criminals often work in pairs—one person gets your attention while the other steals your purse, wallet, or shopping bag.

BASIC CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Many crimes can be prevented if you:

- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings.
- Appear calm and confident in public. Look like you know where you're going.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, leave.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live, work, and attend school, including where the police stations, fire stations, public telephones, and hospitals are located.
- Avoid dangerous situations, like walking alone at night.

myALERTS, UMUC's emergency communication system, can inform you of unexpected local and national safety alerts, as well as site-specific closings due to emergency situations and severe weather.

Sign up to get MyAlerts through text message, e-mail, or pager at <https://alert.umuc.edu>.

STAYING SAFE IN PARKING LOTS AND GARAGES

When walking in a garage or parking lot:

- Check your surroundings before leaving your vehicle or building.
- Walk confidently and briskly.
- Don't weigh yourself down with too many parcels, bags, books, etc.
- Consider changing from high heels to flats or sneakers when leaving work.
- Have your keys in hand when you approach your vehicle.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

Not all crimes are preventable. If you are attacked, your goal is to escape safely. To better your chances:

- Don't resist or refuse to give up your valuables.
- Avoid fighting back, if possible. If you decide to fight back or resist, use all of your strength and focus on incapacitating the attacker so you can run away.
- Scream to attract attention.
- Stay alert. Listen and observe carefully so you can make the best decisions about how to react.
- Get a description. Note the characteristics that will help you describe your attacker to the police—the suspect's sex, age, height, weight, race, hair, eye color, glasses, tattoos, scars, and complexion. Note the condition of the attacker's clothing and any distinguishing shoes, hats, or other items.

BE AWARE ON ELEVATORS AND AT ATM MACHINES

When boarding elevators:

- Pay attention. If someone looks out of place or behaves strangely, don't board.
- Take note of whether a person already in the elevator has pushed a floor button. If the person hasn't, don't get off at your floor. Go back to the lobby and report the suspicious activity.
- Stand near the control panel. If you are threatened or attacked, push the alarm immediately and push several floor buttons—with the doors opening over and over, the attacker is less likely to succeed.

When using ATM machines:

- Use an ATM located inside an open business whenever possible.
- Have your ATM card out of your wallet or purse before approaching the ATM.
- Try to keep your PIN out of the view of others.
- Be sure to take your receipt with you.

UMUC SECURITY SERVICES IF YOU NEED HELP OR FEEL UNSAFE:

UMUC SECURITY DEPARTMENT
To request an escort or report an incident
301-985-7371 or ext. 7371

WEB
www.umuc.edu/security
www.umdps.umd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (UMDPS)
301-405-3333 Emergency
301-405-3555 Non-emergency and escort service

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SHUTTLE (SHUTTLE UM)
301-314-CALL (2255)

Remember, you can always call local police by dialing 911.