

- If you think you are being followed, don't drive home. Drive to the nearest police / fire station or a very public and populated area.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Tips

- Try to use machines you are familiar with and try to use terminals located inside banks rather than Independent terminals.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Look around before conducting a transaction. If you see anyone or anything suspicious, cancel your transaction and go to another ATM.
- If you must use an ATM after hours, make sure it's well-lighted. Never walk away from an ATM with cash still in hand. If you are going to count your money, do so at a secure spot.

Most of these tips may seem like common sense, but if you follow them you may ward off an encounter with a criminal.



REMEMBER!

If you see or hear something **SUSPICIOUS**, Call law enforcement immediately.

Take the **OPPORTUNITY** away from the criminal, lock your car and home.

Be aware of your surroundings and follow these tips!

Download an inventory form from our website at www.sarasotapd.org
Enter the model number and serial number of your items of value and keep it in a safe place.



Sarasota Police Department
2099 Adams Lane, Sarasota FL 34237
Front Desk 941-954-7025
Crime Prevention 941-364-7344
Criminal Investigations 941-954-7070

Common Sense Approach Against Equal Opportunity Criminals



Sarasota Police Department
2099 Adams Lane, Sarasota FL 34237

A Common Sense Approach to Safety

It isn't that criminals are around every corner, but they do take us by surprise and they can target anyone. Most are opportunistic!

There are many things you can do to reduce your chances of being victimized and there are ways to react during & after a criminal incident.

The most important thing to do in all circumstances is give the criminal what he or she wants: don't fight back and risk your life for "stuff". **It simply isn't worth it!**

Personal Safety Tips for the Street

- Don't walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups —there is safety in numbers.
- Let a family member or friend know your destination and your estimated time of arrival or return. Law enforcement can be notified as quickly as possible if there is a problem.
- Stay in well-lighted areas. Avoid alleys, vacant lots, wooded areas, and shortcuts or secluded areas.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement and visibility.
- Don't talk to strangers.
- If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you can't hear outside noises.
- Avoid being distracted by your cellular phone or tablet.
- If someone or something makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

- Don't display expensive jewelry in public.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Know your surroundings!

Personal Safety Tips for Home

- Don't allow strangers into your home, even if they are hurt or say they need help. Keep the door locked and call law enforcement or **911** for them.
- Don't advertise that you live alone.
- Don't be afraid to call law enforcement to investigate suspicious circumstances, unusual people, or strange noises. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- When you move into a new home or apartment, change the locks if you own it or ask the manager to change them if you rent.
- Don't leave notes announcing when you will be home.
- Have your car or house key in your hand before you reach the door.
- Keep outdoor lights on at night.
- If you arrive home and your door is open or things appear to be out of place, don't go inside. Leave and **call 911**.

- If you are accosted by a criminal, follow his or her instructions.
- Don't argue or attempt to fight with your assailant unless as a last resort.

Automobile Safety

- Always park in well-lighted areas.
- Always be alert to people who are just sitting in their cars.
- If you are alone at a shopping mall, ask a security guard to escort you to your car.
- After checking around your car, enter it quickly and lock all the doors. Teach your children to enter and exit the car quickly.
- **LOCK** your car! Stow away items of value that are left in the car.
- Make sure that your windows are raised and that the doors are locked.
- Keep your car in good running condition and gas in the tank.
- Check inside of your car before you enter.

The Sarasota Police Department is working to keep you and our community safe. We urge you to report any and all suspicious incidents and to **LOCK** your cars and homes. Please call our Crime Prevention Unit for safety information and presentations.

