



Let's Talk About Crime

Crime has two victims: the person who suffers loss or injury and the community, which when faced with rising crime, lives in fear and isolation. If you want to live a free, active life and to feel safe, you must develop a mentality of security. Take responsibility for your personal safety and practise skills that reduce your risk of becoming a victim.

Think like ALAN does

- Assess risks: Avoid casual approaches to your personal safety and think ahead about possible threats.
- Look confident: Reduce your chances of being singled out by criminals as a weak target.
- Avoid risks: Trust your instincts. If you perceive a situation or person to be threatening, move quickly to a safer place and ask for help.
- Never assume: Assuming nothing bad will ever happen to you is a recipe for disaster. You're not invincible. Anyone can be a victim of crime.

Get Street Smart When you're walking...

- Don't walk alone.
- Wear bright clothing.
- Avoid danger areas like quiet, badly-lit streets or deserted car parks.
- Avoid stationary cars with people sitting in them.
- Walk with purpose and confidence, but be attuned to your surroundings.
- Don't overload yourself with packages and don't wear restrictive clothing.
- Keep personal belongings close or out of sight – don't wear expensive jewellery.
- Never, ever hitch-hike!

If you feel threatened or face danger while you're walking, move quickly to a public place, like a shop or restaurant,

When you're using public transport...

Public transport is a common way for young people to move about in their daily lives. Here are some basic rules to help you avoid trouble.

In a bus or train

- Isolated stations can be dangerous. Wait for buses or trains in well-lit areas and stand near other commuters.
- Have your ticket or fare in your hand so that your wallet is out of sight.
- When on board, sit near the driver, in a busy area or within reach of the emergency alarms.
- Be careful of people coming too close to you, bumping into you or trying to distract you. Your personal belongings may be in danger.
- Keep your belongings concealed or close to your body, preferably in front or inside pockets.
- Ask a trusted person to meet you if you arrive late at night.

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If you're being threatened on a bus or train, move seats or get off at the next stop and ask other commuters or security for assistance. If the danger is real, make as much noise as possible to attract other commuters and the driver.

In a taxi

- Don't wait for taxis in isolated or dark areas. Try to remain close to shops or other commuters.
- Avoid driving in a taxi with just the driver and no other passengers.
- If the driver drives like a crazy person or the vehicle is unroadworthy, find an alternative means of transportation.
- Never accept a lift from a stranger.

When you're driving...

If you don't pay attention on the roads, you could fall victim to thieves, hijackers, smashand- grabbers or road rage attacks. So:

- Check that your car is in good working order, that you have enough petrol and that your spare tyre is inflated.
- Never drink, take drugs or exceed the speed limit when driving.
- Be aware of your surroundings. When you stop or slow down, look for suspicious individuals walking towards or standing near your car.
- Don't leave valuables in a visible position. Lock them in the boot.
- Keep doors locked and windows rolled up.
- Guard against distractions. Don't make shopping lists or talk on your cell phone while sitting in the car – you'll be an easy target!
- Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. This will allow you to move away in case of danger.
- Park in busy and well-lit areas and always lock your car.
- When you return to your car, check the floor and backseat for hidden intruders before getting in.
- Be sure of which route to follow. Let a trusted person know where you're headed.

If you're a driver in danger, don't get out of the car. Keep doors and windows locked and drive to a safe place, like a police station. If you can't drive away, keep doors and windows locked. Activate your emergency lights and hoot to attract the attention of other drivers.

Be Safe At Home

Many of us think of our home as a haven; a safe place where we're protected from the dangers of the outside world. But crime knows no boundaries.

- Don't open the door to strangers if you're unsure of their identity.
- Lock doors and gates, even if you're only going "around the corner".
- Always use the alarm system if one is available.
- Before you go to bed, check that all doors and windows are properly locked.

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- Keep emergency numbers in a visible place or in your cell phone.
- Safeguard your keys to avoid unwanted duplications.
- Keep outside lights on at night.
- Be alert when you arrive at or depart from home. Look out for suspicious individuals or activities.
- If you arrive home to find that windows or doors have been tampered with, don't go inside. Phone the police.

Public servants are required to present an identity card featuring their photograph and the name of the department they represent. If you're suspicious of an unexpected visitor, phone the department to verify the identity and intention of that person.

It's a tough world out there! Your best weapons against crime are alertness and common sense.

Don't ignore your "sixth sense".

Rely on your intuition and don't ignore your "sixth sense". Spotting something in your peripheral (side) vision, smelling an unusual smell in your home or seeing that something isn't exactly as you left it - all of these can make you feel that something is "off". Don't take the chance. Get out and get help!

Use Common Sense To Spot A Con

The world we live in is plagued by con artists who profit by cheating other people. Be wise and protect yourself:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true.
- Never give out personal information like name, address, ID, credit card or bank account numbers over the phone or on the Internet.
- Never lose sight of your identity documents/credit cards.
- Be careful of individuals or companies offering you easy employment or career opportunities subject to payment of a registration fee.
- Don't pay strangers for items like cell phones or laptops at a reduced price. They may be stolen (making you guilty of receiving stolen property) or damaged (causing you to lose your money).

When Serious Troubles Are Inevitable

In spite of precautionary (protective) measures, you may end up facing dangerous situations. Your safe escape will depend on how you behave and react.

If You Become A Crime Victim

Do everything you can to put the perpetrators where they belong - behind bars.

Jot it down: Write down everything you remember about the crime while your memory is still fresh: the criminals, their behaviour, things they said, weapons, cars and escape routes. Keep a copy of these notes for future reference.

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Report it: Report the crime to the nearest police station. Give the police a truthful version of the event, including all details - no matter how insignificant they seem.

Get medical assistance: You'll receive physical and/or psychological assistance and you'll help in the arrest of those who hurt you. A medical examination allows important evidence to be collected and presented in court (with your consent), so try not to change clothing, comb your hair or shower until after the examination. Emergency Numbers: SAPS: 10 111, SAPS Crime Stop: 0860 010 111

NOTE

Know Your rights!

- You have the right to respect and dignity;
- To give a statement to the police in your own language;
- To read your statement and ask for it to be corrected;
- To give an additional statement if necessary;
- To ask for a copy of your statement;
- To obtain a case number;
- To receive information on your case from the investigating officer;
- To be supplied (after a medical examination) with a medical certificate;
- To be referred for other medical treatment or counselling; and
- To obtain a medical record regarding your examination.

If confronted by armed robbers, your priority is to protect yourself and others. If confronted by assailants, your priority is to escape as fast as possible.

- Cooperate. Stay calm. Don't resist.
- Avoid staring at the robbers and making challenging remarks.
- Avoid sudden movements and keep your hands in sight.
- Remember that potential victims can sometimes escape attack by engaging in effective communication with their attackers.
- Try to memorise details like age, height, hair colour, eyes, scars and other obvious physical features, behaviour, language, clothing and vehicle.
- Never stand in the way of robbers who are escaping. This is a critical period during which you can be badly hurt.
- In the event of a shootout lie flat on the floor, look for cover and don't make sudden moves.
- After a robbery, don't touch anything left behind by the robbers or interfere with any area in which they've been.

If confronted by assailants, your priority is to escape as fast as possible.

- Try to avoid a violent physical confrontation.
- If you choose to flee, do so speedily.
- Scream and shout to attract attention.
- Run to a public place and ask for help.
- If you're left with no other option, fight back with every weapon and tactic you have. Use your elbow – it's the strongest point on your body. Go for sensitive areas like eyes, nose, ears, groin and throat.

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