

IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

- Be physically and psychologically prepared to defend yourself.
- Realize that every confrontation is different, but your most effective weapon is your own judgement.
- Prepare an inventory of your personal skills and think about how you usually respond during a confrontation.
- When faced with danger, trust yourself. Only you can decide how you will respond to a given situation.
- Stay as calm as possible. Think rationally without panic.
- Observe as much as you can about the identity, clothing and behavior of the assailant. This information will be important and useful for the police investigation
- Evaluate the situation, the options available to you, and find a way to escape.
- The following strategies may be effective in confrontations:
 - ✓ Nonresistance
 - ✓ Negotiating
 - ✓ Stalling for time
 - ✓ Distracting or diverting the assailant and fleeing

- ✓ Screaming or using a personal alarm to attract attention and help from nearby
- ✓ Physically resisting and fighting off the assailant
- Keep assessing the situation as it unfolds and never give up!
- If the first strategy you choose does not work, try another and don't give up on your strategy.

REPORTING CRIME

- Be alert and observant wherever you are.
- Learn to recognize signs of criminal behavior.
- Report all crimes to the LAPD even if you do not think it was a significant incident.
- Crime cannot be controlled or prevented if they are not reported.
- Obtain a good description of the assailant. Carefully remember as much as you can about a suspect's appearance and behavior.
- If possible, memorize details of the assailant's identity such as age, height, weight, eye, and hair color.
- Look for distinguishable characteristics such as scars, tattoos, hairstyle, or other prominent features.
- If a vehicle is used in a crime, note the make, model, color, and license number.
- Report crimes immediately. The sooner a crime is reported, the more likely the LAPD will collect important evidence and apprehend the offender.



In Case of Emergency Dial 911

For non-emergencies, you may contact the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired.

You may also obtain additional information on this subject, along with additional crime prevention tips, by visiting the Los Angeles Police Department's Web site at www.lapdonline.org and clicking on "Prevent Crime."

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or activity, please contact your local police station or the LAPD crime hotline at 1-877-LAWFULL (1-877-529-3855).

WWW.LAPDONLINE.ORG
WWW.JOINLAPD.COM



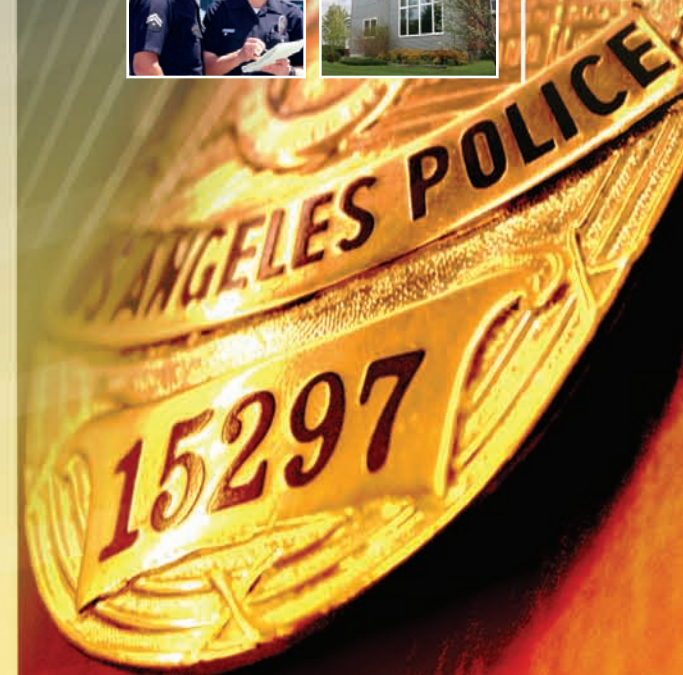
PRODUCED BY:
**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT**
100 West First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 486-8130

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

*"to protect and to serve
our community"*

**Personal
Security**

LAPD
Los Angeles Police Department



Los Angeles is a cosmopolitan city, which is comprised of many people with diverse ethnic backgrounds and life-styles. While the majority of these individuals are law abiding, there are still some individuals who participate in criminal behavior. Determining exactly who is a criminal is difficult in nature. However, criminals often plan their crimes and look for an optimal opportunity with the easiest of victims. One must always be prepared to protect themselves and their residences.

Your best defense is a personal security plan aimed at reducing the opportunity for criminals to target you. The Los Angeles Police Department encourages you to practice the following crime prevention measures to increase your personal safety.



AT HOME

- Always change the locks when you move into a new residence.
- Invest wisely. Install and use quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Utilize sturdy metal and/or solid wood doors for all entries of your home.
- Properly secure all sliding glass doors and windows. If a window is left open for ventilation, keep the opening small in order to prevent entry.
- Trim shrubs around doors, windows, and entryways so crooks don't have a place to hide.
- Light the outside of your home to discourage prowling or loitering. Use floodlights, motion detectors, or exterior lights for all entryways, path ways, stairwells, laundry, trash, and parking areas.
- Consider obtaining a watchdog for additional protection.
- Install a peephole in your front door.
- Never indicate you are home alone and never open the door to a stranger.
- If someone is at your door requesting for help or asking to use your telephone, offer to make the phone call yourself while the stranger waits outside.
- Place emergency telephone numbers (e.g., Police Department, Fire Department, Gas Company, Water/Power) by your phone.
- If you are going to be on vacation, lock all deadbolts, leave lights on timers, stop newspapers, and have mail held at your local post office or collected by a trusted neighbor.
- If a door or window has been forced open or broken while you have been out, do not enter your home because a burglar may be inside. Call 911 from your neighbor's phone/personal cell phone and advise the LAPD that you will wait at your neighbor's house.

WHILE YOU ARE OUT

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and observe people/activities around you.
- Look confident and purposeful when you walk and avoid walking alone if possible.
- Never accept a ride from strangers.
- Always remove your keys and lock your car doors when you exit your car even if you are only gone for just a minute.
- If you notice someone following you when you're driving, head for the nearest busy brightly-lit area. Write down the license number, make, and model of the car. Call 911 or your local emergency number.
- Don't leave valuables or packages in your car in plain view. Leave them in the trunk or take them home immediately.
- If you carry a purse, hold it close to your body. If you carry a wallet, keep it in your front pant's pocket.
- Become familiar with stores and gas stations that stay open late at night, as well as LAPD, Sheriff,

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

When walking, jogging, bicycling, rollerblading, or participating in other outdoor activities please remember the following:

- Always carry proper identification.
- Choose a route in advance that is safe and populated.
- Advise a friend or relative the route you will be taking so they know where to look for you in case of an emergency.
- If you are listening to the radio or music on an IPOD or other device, play it at a volume that allows you to hear your surroundings
- Vary your route so that your behavior is not predictable to others.
- Avoid pursuing outdoor activities after dark.