

PROJECT STAY ALERT

An Online Violence Prevention Education Program of
The Fort Worth Police Department

Violence Prevention Education About

ROBBERY

The Fort Worth Police Department Violent Personal Crimes Section (VPC) E-Prevention Program

This **PROJECT STAY ALERT** slideshow is the production of the Fort Worth Police Department Violent Personal Crimes Section. We're excited that computer technology offers us another tool to help reduce your risk of being the victim of violent crime. We call the use of the internet to perform crime prevention education: "*E-Prevention.*"

Our department's mission is to provide quality service in partnership with the community to create a safe environment for all. Join us in accomplishing this mission by practicing these principles and reducing your degree of risk to violent crime - **STAY ALERT**.

ATTENTION

THIS PRESENTATION IS NOT A SELF-DEFENSE COURSE. IT IS A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND PERSONAL SAFETY.

YOUR DECISIONS CAN INCREASE OR DECREASE YOUR POTENTIAL FOR BEING A CRIME VICTIM.

ROBBERY

The Robbery Threat

In Texas, robbery is unlawfully taking or attempting to take property that's in someone's immediate possession by using or threatening to use force.

SOME ROBBERY FACTS

The threatened or actual physical harm, and the property loss to the victim, places robbery among the most serious and feared crimes.

It occurs much more often than sexual assault or homicide.

Although many robberies don't result in physical injury to the victim or significant property loss, injury occurs in 1 in 3 robberies, ranging from bruises and black-eyes to life-threatening gunshot or knife wounds.

About 54% of all robberies are committed on streets and highways.

Slightly more than twenty percent (21%) of all robberies occur in commercial establishments, and residential robberies represent eleven percent (11%) of all robberies.

Source: US Department of Justice

Don't Be An Attractive Target to a Robber

Avoid walking by yourself in dark or isolated locations, or locations that aren't clearly exposed to public view - during the daytime or nighttime.

Be on high alert as you're entering and exiting your home; and don't hesitate calling the police if someone or something seems suspicious.

Carry a warning device, such as a whistle or an air horn. If you don't have any devices like these, alarming words such as, "FIRE!" can be screamed to get people's attention.

Walk in a confident manner and as though you know exactly where you're going.

Approach your car with keys in hand and lock the doors immediately upon entering.

Avoid using outdoor ATM machines at night or in secluded areas.

Carjacking

Carjacking occurs most often in parking lots of busy commercial areas when the driver is entering or exiting a parked vehicle.

More than sixty percent (63%) of carjackings or attempted carjackings occur within five miles of the victim's home.

Carjackers aim to attack their victims while their car keys are readily available and the car doors are unlocked so they can make a speedy getaway.

DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of carjack victims are alone at the time of the offense.

Carjackers, like all robbers, take advantage of the element of surprise. Many victims report never seeing the carjacker until the person suddenly showed up at their car door.

Statistical Source: US Department of Justice

Reduce the Risk of Carjacking

Park in areas that are well-lit and unobstructed by walls, shrubbery, signage, and other barriers.

Use valet parking or an attended parking garage. Remember to use a valet key, if possible.

As you're approaching your vehicle, be alert to people sitting in nearby vehicles or standing close to your vehicle.

Look beneath vehicles as you're walking to yours; carjackers sometimes hide underneath them and make their attack as the victim prepares to open their door.

If you're alone, request a security escort to take you to your car.

Drive with your windows up, if possible, and keep your doors locked.

Use extreme caution when helping stranded motorists and avoid being entrapped by a carjacker.

Dealing with Business Robbery

Keep small amounts of cash visible in your register; and keep your deposits in a secure location until you're prepared to go to the bank.

Playing a TV or radio in a back room can give the impression that there are several people in the building and cause would-be robbers to have second thoughts.

Avoid having employees work alone - there tends to be safety in numbers.

Establish a code word or a phrase that alerts other employees that a crime is occurring.

Jotting down the robber's description can greatly improve the chances that they'll be arrested.

Attempting to stop a robber or refusing to give them the property they're demanding can place you at greater risk of harm - so use good judgment.

If You Witness a Robbery

Make a mental note of the description of the person that committed the crime - sex, color, height, age, clothing, facial hair, hairstyle, scars, tattoos, speech - and please **WRITE THE INFORMATION DOWN**.

TWO METHODS FOR DETERMINING HEIGHT AND WEIGHT:

Compare the person to yourself or someone you know;

Note the person's size and body build relative to an object or a doorway close to where they're standing.

WRITE IT DOWN

Write down any information on vehicles used by the person committing the crime, such as the make, model, color, and license plate number.

Call 911 or your police emergency number immediately and report what you observed.

The sooner you report the crime, the greater the possibility the police will be able to collect important evidence that will help them make an arrest.

Help for Victims of Violent Crime

The Fort Worth Police Department Victim Assistance Unit helps those victimized in our city, and their families, deal with the trauma of being a crime victim. Their services include:

- Crisis counseling for victims and their families

- Information and referrals to local resources and social services

- Explanation of the criminal justice system, case status information, and referral to assigned detective

- Assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation application

For assistance, call the Victim Assistance Unit at (817) 392-4390.

Once a case has been filed, you may also contact the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Unit at (817) 884-2740.

Citizens On Patrol & Crime Watch

Fort Worth citizens,

You can become more involved in the fight against crime by joining your local **Fort Worth Police Department Citizens On Patrol** or **Crime Watch**. To inquire about Citizens On Patrol, call the COP Coordinator on your side of town:

North Division COP Coordinator	(817) 253-2996
East Division COP Coordinator	(817) 871-5220
South Division COP Coordinator	(817) 922-3400
West Division COP Coordinator	(817) 392-4740

To inquire about Crime Watch, call the Crime Prevention Specialist on your side of town:

North Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 740-2119
East Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 871-5200
West Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 392-4764
South Division Crime Prevention Specialist	(817) 922-3400

Please share this
information with others.

STAY ALERT!