

# PROJECT STAY ALERT

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

Violence Prevention Education About

## SEX CRIMES

# 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.

SEX CRIMES

# Sexual Assault

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

A basic definition of sexual assault in the State of Texas is the act of a person forcing another person to engage in certain types of physical and any sexual activity against their will, or an adult engaging in certain physical and any sexual activity with children.

## FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Nationwide, 16.7% of all female rape victims were victimized by a stranger.

Female rape victims are victimized most often by current or former spouses, cohabitating partners, dates, boyfriends and girlfriends.

Children under 12 are more likely to be victimized by a relative.

Only 20% of rape victims report the offense to the police.

# High-Risk People or High-Risk Behaviors

There aren't high- or low-risk people; rather, a person's BEHAVIOR can determine their degree of risk to sex crimes.

The chance of being a victim of a sex crime *increases* as a person's participation in high-risk behaviors *increase*.

## EXAMPLES OF HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR

People driving or walking the streets at night generally have a greater chance of being victimized than people that are secure in their homes.

Walking outdoors alone is generally riskier than walking in a group, or even with one other person.

Intoxication places a person at a higher risk to sex crimes than being sober, due to the loss of mental and physical control. Being intoxicated can make a person **THE PERFECT VICTIM**.

Staying in control allows you to stay alert and stay safe.

# The Predator's Primary Tool

WHAT IS THE SEXUAL PREDATOR'S PRIMARY TOOL?

## DECEPTION

Sexual predators often use charm and a friendly appearance as a tactic to disarm their potential victim and put them at ease.

Don't assume that a person can be trusted simply because they're polite and cordial - **TRUST MUST BE EARNED.**

# Looks Can Be Deceiving

The price of ignoring the warning signs of violence - chronic anger, extreme jealousy, drug or alcohol abuse, mood swings, controlling personality - could result in physical injury or even the loss of life, so **STAY ALERT**.

A person's physical appearance or personality is not a reliable indicator of their potential for being a dangerous person.

Be mindful that dangerous people are not restricted to certain ages, races or socioeconomic backgrounds.

Most sexual predators do not wear dark-colored clothing and lurk in the bushes at night waiting for their victims.

Sexual predators can be very charming, endearing, and often look like the neighbor next door.

# Dating Do's & Don'ts

## DATING DOs

Know the full name, address, and other personal information of every person you date.

Share your date plans - the time and location of your date, your date's name and address - with close friends or relatives.

Drink in moderation on dates with people you don't know extremely well. Remember, too much alcohol can impair good memory and judgment.

## DATING DON'Ts

Don't be pressured by your date into using drugs or alcohol.

Don't accept drinks from people you don't know and trust.

Don't leave your drink unattended or drink from bottles and containers opened out of your view; this gives someone the opportunity to put a foreign substance into it.

Don't give your trust to new dates - regardless of how you met them.

# Date Rape Drugs

Most victims of date rape and acquaintance rape were under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the rape occurred.

A date rape drug is any substance that renders a person incapable of saying no or protecting or asserting themselves.

## EFFECTS OF COMMON DATE RAPE DRUGS

The world's most common date rape drug is - **ALCOHOL**. There is also a tasteless, odorless, completely dissolvable powder that causes unconsciousness and memory loss. It can last between 8 to 36 hour, and can purge itself from a person's system in as few as 48 hours.

Another commonly used date rape drug is a dangerous homemade substance that in high dosages can render a person unconscious within 5 minutes. It can cause amnesia, hallucinations, and even coma. A veterinarian sedative is also used as a date rape drug; it has the same effect as the two previous drugs, but remains in the human system for about 3 hours.

If you begin feeling strange or ill during a date or some type of outing, seek professional medical attention right away.

Source: National Drug Intelligence Center

# Your Internal Alarm

That “inner voice” or “feeling” inside of us - everyone’s experienced it - is called: **INTUITION**. Intuition allows us to sense danger without knowing danger is present.

It may not be possible to prevent every sex crime; however, in many instances, these crimes can be avoided if a person **STAYS ALERT** to their “intuition” also known as a “gut feeling.”

Follow your intuition’s lead, even if it means others might think you’re rude, or if it means spending a few minutes taking extra safety precautions.

Your intuition alerts you to unseen dangers - it acts as your **INTERNAL ALARM**

Always combine the use of good judgment with paying attention to your intuition. They work best when they work together.

# 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.

**Need Help in Reporting Rape?**

**PLEASE CALL US**

**FWPD Sex Crimes Unit**

**(817) 392-4350**

**Rape Crisis Hotline**

**(817) 927-2737**

**Women's Center**

**(817) 927-4000**

**SafeHaven of Tarrant County**

**(877) 701-7233**

# 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!**