



Photo by Viktor Hanaček

Personal safety is important to everyone. No one wants to be the victim of crime, but unfortunately crimes do occur. This brochure contains awareness information and suggestions designed to help keep you safe. Most crimes are opportunistic, meaning the perpetrator is looking for an easy target, such as an unlocked vehicle or someone who falls prey to a phone scam. The police can't be everywhere, but we can offer some information to help reduce the chances of being victimized. We invite you take a moment to read through some personal safety tips and discuss these tips with your family.



Vehicle Safety

- Prepare your trip and plan your route
- Put down distractions: phones down, heads up – Distracted driving can cause injury or death
- Lock and shut off your parked car – criminals will steal a vehicle left running
- Remove your belongings – criminals are looking for things to steal
- Park in well-lit areas at night

Conversation starters with children about personal safety:

- There has been some news about _____. Are any of your friends talking about it?
- Let's talk about the different ways we can quickly leave our home. For example, through the front door, through a window, etc.

**Let's all commit
to Stay Safe!**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.sparkspolice.com



Nextdoor



SPARK'S POLICE

INFORMATION

PERSONAL SAFETY



*"Where Community
Comes First"*

www.sparkspolice.com

Walking

- Be aware of what is going on around you
- Walk with purpose, with your head up
- Avoid dimly-lit areas at night
- Wear reflective clothing at night
- Be prepared, with key in hand, if going to your car or home
- If you are being followed, safely cross the street or change direction
- If someone continues following you, draw the attention of others and call police with your location, and a description of the person or vehicle following you

In your Vehicle

- **Conduct a vehicle safety check:** tires, fluids, lights; adjust mirrors and assess the overall condition of your vehicle
- **Buckle up:** Put on your seatbelt and ask passengers to buckle up too – this saves lives
- **Don't leave your running vehicle unsecured**
- **Lock your parked car** – every time
- **Remove valuables:** purse, firearms, backpack, electronics, gifts



Shopping or Going Out

Prepare your trip and plan your route: Let a friend or family member know your route, destination and when you will return.

Online Safety

- **Ensure your wireless network is password protected**
- **Email phishing:** criminals will try anything to steal your hard-earned money. An unsolicited email that contains a link requesting your personal information is likely a scam.
- **Pay attention to the website addresses you are visiting,** especially those connected to unsolicited emails. A website may, at first glance, appear legitimate, but the URL or web address may contain a clue, with misspelled words or a web address you don't recognize. For example: www.SparksPolize.com might appear to be a legitimate website, but the misspelled word, "Polize," containing the letter Z in the web address, is not the official web address for the Sparks Police.



For more information about various scams or to report a scam, visit: www.ic3.gov or www.ftc.gov.

Over the Phone

Never provide your personal information or credit card information over the phone to someone who calls claiming to be with a private or governmental company. The scammer may sound convincing, but in many cases, they will say anything to get your account information.

We have seen some creative telephone scams where the perpetrator attempts to steal your money by obtaining a credit card number. The scammer may ask you to provide your personal information to "verify records," or demand your credit card information.

Some examples:

- Hello, I need you to make payment for a fine or the police will arrest you – **SCAM!**
- Hi, please provide your address, date of birth and social security number to receive a gift – **SCAM!**

If you believe you are the victim of fraud, please contact your local police to report the incident.

