

PERSONAL SAFETY

Lee
County
Sheriff's
Office



Sheriff Carmine Marceno

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EMERGENCY 9-1-1
Non-Emergency 477-1000
Web-Site: www.sheriffleefl.org

“Proud To Serve”

Preventative Measures

The suggestions made in this pamphlet are just that, suggestions. Minimize your chances of being a victim by reducing the opportunity for crime...in your home, car, or on the street.

Basic Street Sense

- Wherever you are – stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings. Know the names of the streets you are near and have just passed, as well as the ones you are approaching.
- Send the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going (even if you are lost).
- Trust your instincts.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Check out the locations of police, and fire stations, hospitals, and restaurants, or stores.
- Stick to well-traveled streets.
- Tell a loved one or a good friend where you are going, how you will be getting there, how they can get in touch with you, who you will be with, and when they can expect you back home. **If you are going to be late or deviate from the stated schedule CALL HOME – no matter how “old” you are!**
- Do NOT post travel plans or present location when away from home on a social media site.
- Do not flash large amounts of cash, credit cards, or other tempting targets. If you are carrying a large amount of cash keep it in a separate location. The smaller denominations should be on the outside.
- Limit the number of credit cards you carry.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Even better, do

not carry a purse; use a fanny pack secured around your waist or use your pockets instead.

- Put your wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, not a back pocket.
- Do not wear shoes or clothing that restrict your movements.
- If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street. Walk toward an open store, restaurant, or lighted house. If you are afraid, yell "fire".
- Have your key in hand before you go to your car.
- The first thing you should do when getting in your car is lock the doors.



- Carry a fully charged cell phone with you. **There are a number of reasons for having a cell phone, but the most important is your own personal safety!**
- Working late? Make sure there are others in the building and ask someone – a colleague or security guard – to walk you to your car.
- Shopping? Park in well lighted public spaces close to a main (anchor) store that has a lot of foot traffic.
- Remember there is safety in numbers! The buddy system works well no matter the age of the buddies.

Safety Tips for Using an Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- Use the automated teller machines during daytime hours.
- There is safety in numbers.

- Lock your car while using a walk up ATM.
- Observe your surroundings. Should you observe suspicious persons, activity or feel uneasy, leave immediately. Report any suspicious activity or persons to law enforcement.
- Have your card and any other paperwork ready and in your hand.
- While using the ATM continue to observe your surroundings. If you observe suspicious activity, terminate your transaction immediately, leave the area, and contact law enforcement.
- Leave quickly after conducting your business. Do **not** count or expose any money.
- Once in your car lock the doors and put away your money and card.



Simple Protective Measures for Property and Ourselves

Do not have identification on your house keys. If your keys are lost or stolen and your address is on your key chain then whoever has your keys also has your address.

- Do not store your home address under "Home" on your GPS. Use a nearby intersection or other familiar location instead.

In Your Home

- Re-key all exterior door locks when you move into a new home.
- Keep your garage door closed at all times.
- Install auxiliary locks on all windows and sliding glass doors.
- Install good exterior lighting.
- DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR FOR STRANGERS
- Install a peep hole in the front door that has at least a 180 degree viewing ability
- Be alert to suspicious persons and activity in your neighborhood.
- Do not advertise that you live alone.
- Keep more than 1 light on in the house, preferably on timers.
- Do not hide an extra key outside.
- Keep your doors locked.
- Close your blinds at night or whenever you are undressing or sleeping.



In your Car

- Park in well lighted areas.
- Always lock your car.
- When driving, keep your doors locked and windows up.
- If you think you are being followed, do not drive home. Drive to the nearest gas, or fire station.
- If you have car troubles, raise the hood then wait inside the car with the doors locked and windows up. If a motorist

stops to help, crack your window slightly and ask him to call for help.

- If you want to help another motorist, call law enforcement for him or her, but do not stop.
- Carry a cell phone.

For more information call the Crime Prevention Unit of the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 258-3280. The Lee County Sheriff's Office has Crime Prevention Specialists who are available to answer questions related to this brochure or other safety concerns and are available to conduct a wide variety of educational programs free of charge.

Crime Prevention	258-3280
Fraud Line	258-3292
Crime Stoppers	1-800-780-TIPS

It is the policy of the Lee County Sheriff's Office to protect the Constitutional rights of all people, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, religion or other belief system or physical characteristic; and to treat each person with respect and dignity.

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