

January 8, 2008

Personal Safety Resolutions

A Safe New Year is a Happier One



When you make your New Year's resolutions this year, will personal safety considerations play a role?

While our cities, communities and workplaces are protected by dedicated police and security officers, ultimately, we are all responsible for our own personal safety. Even the simplest activities can reduce our personal safety risk...

1. **Deter and Detect Identity Theft** -- As identity theft continues to increase, proactive steps are needed to protect ourselves and our personal information.

- Review your credit report regularly.
- Shred documents containing personal information.
- Keep your Social Security number and pin numbers confidential.
- Opt out of unnecessary mailing lists.
- Remove personal information from company and family websites.

2. **Be Smart When You Park** -- In our hurried lives, we often forget about potential dangers that can occur in dark or remote parking areas. Be sure to:

- Park in well-lit, heavily trafficked areas.
- Walk briskly, with your head up and be aware of your surroundings.
- Have your keys in hand and look into your vehicle before entering.
- Lock all doors as soon as you are in your vehicle.
- When alone at night, ask for a security escort to your vehicle.

3. **Drive for Life** -- Driving can be a safety risk all on its own and there are many other factors that can influence our safety. To ensure a safer driving experience:

- Be extra cautious while driving at night and in hazardous conditions.
- Carry emergency supplies including flares or reflectors.
- Take valuables with you or store them out of view.
- Do not give rides to strangers or stop to assist with a disabled vehicle.

4. **Beware of Telemarketers** -- Phone scams often catch us off guard as we would never expect to become a victim within the safety of our own homes. But it does happen.

- Generally, if an offer sounds too good to be true, it is.

- If you are considering making a purchase by phone, and you did not initiate the call, ask for a catalog or information to be mailed to you first.
- Never reveal your checking account, credit card or Social Security numbers to a caller regardless of whom they say they are.

5. **Travel Safe Not Sorry** -- use extra caution to protect your personal safety while traveling.

- Carry minimal cash and keep tickets secure in an inside pocket.
- Do not leave luggage unattended and report abandoned baggage.
- Only use taxis with official markings and at official pick-up areas.
- If you are traveling by car, be sure your vehicle is serviced and route planned.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers and keep your vehicle locked.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery, and hide empty trash cans.

Resources:

For more information concerning personal safety visit:

National Crime Prevention Council: <http://www.ncpc.org/topics/personal-safety>

Sincerely,

For other security tips, call AlliedBarton at 1-866-825-5433 or visit us at AlliedBarton.com.