

City of Columbia



Police Department

PERSONAL SAFETY

At some points in our lives, we have all found ourselves in a situation where we were concerned about our personal safety. Whether lost in a strange part of a city, or stranded on a deserted roadway, each of these situations were real to the person experiencing the trauma.

When pondering these scenarios, a question that might come to mind is, "How could I ever defend myself from an attacker, especially if the possible attacker appears stronger?" Simply put, personal safety is strength of mind, not strength of body. By using good judgment, you will be able to avoid many situations that might put you in harm's way, thus

reducing your chance of becoming a victim. Follow and implement the following tips, and you will be safer in your future outings.

Walk Assertively If your demeanor reflects an air of confidence, you will less likely be a victim. Show others you know where you are and that you are determined in reaching your destination.



Use Eye Contact Many assailants questioned, declare that their victim never saw them coming. Let a potential attacker know that you are

aware of their present by watching them and making eye contact.

Keep Purse/Wallet Secure

Don't make your valuables obvious or easy to grab. Ensuring that your wallet is not exposed in your back pocket, Consider carrying a smaller purse.

Pay Attention

Look and notice your environment, consider how you might respond to a potential crisis before it presents itself.

Lock Your Vehicle

While you driving, or most importantly while unattended, make sure your vehicle is secure. Don't leave valuables visible.

Park in Good Lighting

The proper lighting enables you to see a potential threat before it prevents itself, not only that they make criminals nervous. Park so that you can see the route you plan to take from your vehicle to your destination point.

To Report a Crime Call...

Dispatch—252-2911

Police Headquarters...

TRU—545-3500

Emergency

911