

Armed Robbery (Individual)

Be Streetwise & Safe

- Don't walk alone if you can help it. Most violent crimes are directed against a lone victim.
- Avoid walking in risky areas such as deserted streets, wooded areas, and dark alleys or parking lots.
- Walk near the curb, on lighted streets at night, and against the traffic. Travel known routes.
- Never flash cash in public. Carry only the amount of money you actually need.
- Never hitchhike! Drivers who pick up hitchhikers often have ideas other than wanting to help you.
- ALWAYS let someone know where you're going and when you'll return. If something should happen to you, they'll call for help when you don't show up.
- Carry change in your pocket in case you have to make an emergency phone call to family, a friend, or law enforcement. Remember that 911 calls are always free on pay phones and cellular phones as well.
- Try to park your car in well-lit places. Always lock it when you leave - and look into and under the car before you get inside to make sure you don't have an uninvited passenger.
- Avoid walking near doorways, shrubbery and other dark places where someone might hide.
- Walk confidently. Be alert - notice who passes you and who's behind you.
- Keep your purse or wallet close to your body. Don't carry open purses without flaps. Keep your credit cards separate from your wallet.
- Carry a whistle or other noisemaker. If in trouble, use it! Call for help! Muggers usually won't hang around to see what happens next.
- Have your keys in your hand when leaving home or work. Not only will this save time opening the door, but keys make an excellent weapon, if need be.
- If working late, try to have a friend or security guard escort you to your car.
- If you want to help a disabled vehicle, don't get out of the car. Drive to the nearest well-lit area with a phone and call the Columbia Police Department at 803-545-3500.
- Don't pick up a hitchhiker under any circumstances.
- Don't pull over for flashing headlights. An emergency vehicle or Law Enforcement Officer will have flashing blue lights.
- Be careful about your keys. Leave only the ignition key with parking or service station attendants. That way you won't run the risk that your house keys will be duplicated.

Know What To Do

- If you're being followed don't go directly home. Instead drive to the nearest police substation in your area, or to a hospital, or other public place.
- Make sure to take a good look at anyone who is acting suspiciously, or who may be following you.
- Review the suspect identification chart included in this booklet for important points to pay attention to.
- If your car breaks down, pull over. Put up the hood, turn on the flashers, and tie a handkerchief to the antenna (if available). Then get in the car, lock the doors, roll up the windows and TURN THE ENGINE OFF. When someone stops, roll your window down just enough to ask them to phone for help.
- If you have a cell phone, use it to call for help.

