



Robbery & Theft Prevention Tips

from the Oak Park Police Department

Robbery Do's and Don'ts

DO obey an offender's instructions when it's practical to do so – particularly when they threaten to hurt you. Property can be replaced – you cannot.

DO pay attention to your environment and what's around you.

DO keep cash in a separate money clip or pouch so you can hand it over to a criminal without sacrificing credit cards, identification and other important items.

DON'T be distracted while walking or waiting for public transportation. Someone on a cell phone or listening to music can be enticing to a would-be robber.

DON'T carry a purse or bag loosely around your shoulder.

Mass Transit Riders

Should you be targeted by a potential thief, make a mental note of the offender's race, age, height, sex, clothing, color of hair and eyes, etc. Note anything unusual such as scars or tattoos.

Note the number of accomplices and how they left the area, direction of travel, what type of vehicle, the make, color and license plate.

Note the type, size and color of a weapon.

When riding on the train, don't wear headphones.

Travel in pairs if you can, do not sit alone in a train, car or bus – or if you must travel alone, sit near mass transit employees.

Do not sit near an aisle seat or door with exposed valuables.

If you are carrying a bag or purse, make sure the items are secured (zipped up) and away from the aisles.

Keep personal belongings between yourself and the aisle.

Personal Safety

Avoid carrying a purse. Keep your wallet in your pocket instead.

If you wear jewelry, conceal it under your clothing.

Carry your cell phone separately from your purse or backpack. If someone steals your bag, your cell phone is still accessible to call 9-1-1.

Avoid walking alone in the street at night. When unavoidable, use well-lit streets to get to your destination.

Walk near the curb and away from shrubbery where someone could be hiding.

Keep an arms length away from strangers.

If you think someone acting suspiciously is approaching you or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.

Carry a whistle and use it when your personal safety is in danger.

Don't make it obvious that you are in unfamiliar territory.

Pay attention. Suspects look for victims who are not alert.

Moderate alcohol intake and remain in control of your senses. Offenders target those who are most vulnerable.

Walk briskly with confidence, your head up and look at those around you.

Oak Park Police Department

Committed to community, integrity and excellence in public safety

123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302

708.386.3800 non-emergency

708.434.1630 crime tip hotline

police@oak-park.us

www.oak-park.us/police

Always call 9-1-1 in an emergency.