

# Know your neighborhood and help keep it safe

If you are new to a neighborhood, you should learn where your nearest police station, hospital, and fire station are. Make sure your children and other household members know, too. Keep emergency contact information readily available and visible (i.e. on the refrigerator).

Get in touch with your local neighborhood watch and join the effort. If your community does not have a program, consider getting one started.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT KEEPING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

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THIS INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION



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SAFETY GUIDE  
CRIME  
PREVENTION



# Preventing crime

One of the best ways to prevent crime is to stay informed, aware, and connected with your local resources.

If you are curious about the most common issues in your neighborhood and how you can keep you and your family safe, contact your local law enforcement agency. Otherwise, there are a few basic things everyone should do to help prevent themselves from becoming victims of crime.

## Keep your home secure

Check all of your windows and doors. Make sure all entry points have updated locks, and keep everything locked when you are away - even just for a few minutes. Keep lights on while you are away to keep your house from looking empty. If you are going to be away for a long time, ask a neighbor to accept your mail.

Consider investing in an alarm system, especially one that alerts local law authorities in the event of a break-in.

## Make sure your digital information is protected

Password protect all of your devices, including cell phones and tablets, with unique passwords. Be aware of what you post on social media - sometimes addresses, locations, or other personal information make their way into photos by accident. If you are posting sensitive information such as photos of your children, vacation itineraries, etc., make sure that your privacy settings are all up to date.

Talk to your kids often about what they are doing online, who they are communicating with, and what information they can share.

Stay alert - If you are walking or exercising in an isolated area, stay off the phone and don't wear headphones or ear buds.



## Safety in numbers

Whenever possible, travel with a friend or in a group. Never be embarrassed to ask someone to walk you to your car or to your home if you do not feel safe.

## Car safety

Always keep your car locked, and avoid leaving valuables in your car - even in the trunk - whenever possible.

## Safety for travelers

If you are going somewhere new, do some research ahead of time to figure out whom to contact in case of an emergency. Familiarize yourself with local customs and laws, especially if you are visiting a different country.

Keep important documents and valuables in a safe place while you are sight-seeing - never bring them with you if you can leave them in a secure location at your hotel or residence.

## Drug safety

If you have prescription medications at home, make sure they are stored in a secure location, up high, and out of sight of curious house guests or burglars. Never offer to share medications with someone else - you should be the only one taking your medications. Sharing is not only dangerous, but illegal.

Keep your medications organized, in their original packaging, and occasionally keep count to make sure none are unexpectedly missing.

Talk with your children and teens often about drug use, consequences of use, and who they can talk to about peer pressure, drug use, or where to go for help if they need it.