Protect Yourself

Sheriff Fontoura Offers Advice on How to Protect Yourself

Many crimes can be prevented if you follow the tips below.

Trust your instincts.

- If you suspect something is wrong, or if a situation seems dangerous, you may be right!
- Don't dismiss suspicious people, cars or situations. Report them immediately.
- Change direction if someone is following you on foot; cross the street and vary your pace. If the person is in a car, turn and walk in the opposite direction.

Avoid dangerous situations.

- Don't invite trouble. Use your best judgment about where you go and what you do.

Be safe on the streets.

- Dress appropriately. Avoid flashy cloths and jewelry that might attract unwanted attention.
- Walk with someone when possible.
- Stay alert to what's around you.
- Go to a public place if you need to ask directions.
- Walk in well traveled areas; avoid isolated areas, parks and parking lots.
- Avoid short cuts that may expose you to danger.
- Protect your valuables.
- Carry only what you need.
- If you carry a purse, hold it close to your body.
- At bus stops, wait in well-lit areas near others.

Be safe in your car.

- Keep doors locked and windows rolled up in traffic.
- Always lock your car.
- When parking, park in well-lit areas.
- Keep valuables out of sight in the trunk.
- Have your keys in hand and ready when you approach your car.

- Before getting into your car, check the back seat.
- If you have car trouble, raise the hood and put on emergency flashers.
- Stay inside of the vehicle with the windows up; ask anyone that stops to call the police or nearest service station.
- Never pickup strangers

Be safe when traveling.

- Leave valuables in a safe at the desk.
- Always keep your room key with you.
- Double lock the door when you're inside.
- Tell room clerks not to give out your room number.
- Never give out your room number to strangers.