



Bureau of Police
City of Lancaster
39 West Chestnut Street
Lancaster, PA 17602



Press Release

Personal Safety Tips

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Contact Number: 717-735-3300

Date: August 8, 2008

Personal Safety Tips

The Lancaster Bureau of Police has identified a possible trend regarding some recent assaults and robberies that have occurred over the past few weeks, where pedestrians have been robbed or assaulted by a group of suspects or a single suspect. These incidents are still under investigation and detectives are attempting to identify possible suspects. However, based on this information the Bureau of Police wanted to provide the public with a few simple safety tips that may reduce their chances of becoming a victim.

SAFETY TIPS:

Be aware of your surroundings – If walking avoid shortcuts that are not well lighted or are secluded from public view. Walk in a group of two or more. Park your car in well-lighted areas.

Avoid suspicious activity – Do not engage in illegal activity. Avoid suspicious looking persons or activity. Subjects panhandling, subjects loitering, or appear suspicious by behavior or appearance (i.e.; clothing does not match weather, subject is monitoring patrons coming and going from a business, subject suddenly begins to follow you for no reason.)

Take precautions – If you are going out to drink alcohol and are walking, drink responsibly, avoid drinking too much and making yourself an easy target, or call a taxi or have another responsible person with you that will avoid drinking for the night to make sure you get home safely. Where a personal safety alarm.

Be prepared – Have an emergency plan. (What will I do if I am attacked) Follow the suspect's directions exactly without volunteering information. Consider all guns, or threat of guns as loaded weapons. Be prepared to be a good witness and provide police with information.

Be a good witness – Without seeming obvious, study the suspect's distinguishing features, clothing, speech, direction of travel, vehicle description, etc.

Self-defense – There is no hard and fast rule on self-defense or fighting back. Things to consider if you decide or think about fighting back: Your mindset, physical capabilities or fitness level, your location (are you in public view or trapped), Perceived chances of success (Am I faster than a bullet, am I willing to be cut or stabbed if the suspect has a knife.)

Always keep in mind that if an attacker has threatened you with a deadly weapon and you survived, you took the proper course of action.



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