

## Personal safety tips

Below are a few personal safety tips from the St. Louis Park Police Department.

- When walking, choose well-lit areas where other people are present. Walk briskly and purposefully. Be alert of your surroundings, and if you feel uneasy, go immediately to a place where there are other people. Remove yourself from the situation.
- If a situation evolves in your presence, do not get involved unless necessary to protect yourself or others from direct, imminent harm. By doing so, you can become a good witness for first responders. The St. Louis Park Police Department does not endorse the carrying or use of personal protection items (e.g., weapons of any kind).
- When driving, keep valuables out of view and doors locked. If you are being followed, go to the first open business you see and honk your horn or call police.
- Be sure your vehicle is mechanically sound. If you find yourself stranded, move your vehicle out of the lanes of traffic, stay with your vehicle (preferably in it) and immediately call for assistance. Refrain from walking on highways or busy secondary roads for assistance.
- Park in well-lit areas close to entrances/exits and look around you before you get out of your car. Be aware of people loitering around the parking area.
- Always have windows closed and lock vehicle doors. Have vehicle keys in hand ready to go. This way you won't be fumbling for them by your vehicle.
- Car alarms and locking your car will NOT protect you from theft. It only takes seconds for thieves to break a vehicle window and grab items from within. Do not leave purses, briefcases, cell phones, gym bags, power cords, spare change or packages visible. Most importantly, do not leave a spare key or fob within or in another location on the vehicle.
- Know your final place of destination along with the layout of the surrounding area. Familiarize yourself by taking a pre-trip/trial run, possibly with another person. If feasible, establish multiple travel routes to and from destination.
- Identify multiple ways out at your place of work and unfamiliar venues/destinations in case there is an emergency and your original exit point is disturbed.
- Report any and all suspicious activity to 911.

Questions and further assistance can be directed to the police department's community outreach at 952.924.2661.