

Personal Safety Tips

Here are some general personal protection tips

SHOPPING

- Avoid shopping alone. Use the buddy system whenever possible.
- Shop before dark and always park in well-lighted areas.
- Use waist-pack carriers instead of purses.
- Make sure all doors and windows are locked in your vehicle and home.
- Do not keep packages in plain view in your vehicle or home.
- Do not count cash in open areas, especially after leaving an ATM machine.
- Keep your address and home phone number private. When stores request a phone number, give only your work number.
- After making a credit card purchase, request the carbon copy and destroy it in private.
- Have keys in hand before returning to the vehicle.
- As you approach the car, check to see if anyone is hiding underneath or inside.

At Home (or your apartment)

- Never let strangers inside your residence.
- Keep your garage door closed to prevent thefts.
- When going out for the evening, turn on lights, a radio, or television to make your home or apartment appear occupied.
- Keep the garage door closed to prevent thefts.
- If you plan to be out of town for a few days, purchase an automatic timer for lights.
- Have a trusted neighbor watch your home and pick up your mail and newspapers. Ask them to park a vehicle in your driveway.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new purchases and gifts with your driver's license number. You can check out an engraver from a neighborhood fire station or the Crime Prevention Unit of the Arlington Police Department.

On the Computer

- Shop only from well-established and reputable companies. Avoid auction sites if you do not feel comfortable buying or bidding.
- Before you give your credit card information, take note of the icons that indicate that security software is in place to secure your purchase.
- Print out and date a copy of all terms, conditions, warranties, item description, company information and confirming e-mails. Save this information as a record of your purchase.
- Avoid computer viruses and unwanted access to your information by not accepting e-mail from people you do not know.

Remain alert and report suspicious activity through the use of 911