

Mission Statement

The mission of Walla Walla Area Crime Watch is to assist local law enforcement, fire departments, and emergency management agencies in the area of crime prevention.

Walla Walla Area Crime Watch is an organization comprised of citizens with law enforcement, fire and prevention specialists as advisors.

All funds received will continue the work of Crime Watch in supporting crime prevention programs and activities which encourage community education with the purpose of reducing crime victimization and reduce the fear of crime.

Walla Walla Area Crime Watch also supports and recognizes volunteers involved in making the Walla Walla Valley a safer place to live and work and play.



What if it happens to you?

When faced with danger, trust yourself. Stay as calm as possible. Think rationally, without panicking. Evaluate your options. There is no one right way to respond to a confrontation. Every situation is different. The response depends on the circumstances: location of the attack, your personal resources, the characteristics of the assailant and the presence of weapons.

There are many strategies that are effective, but you must rely on your own judgment to choose the best one:

- No resistance
- Stalling for time
- Negotiating
- Distraction and then fleeing
- Verbal assertiveness
- Screaming to attract attention
- Physical resistance

Always make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of your attacker and call the police immediately

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The Personal Safety Check List



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The Personal Safety Check List



Probably the least expensive measure you can take to protect yourself against crime is to incorporate certain habits into your daily routine that make you and your family less vulnerable. Adopt a "security conscious" lifestyle. The best prevention is precaution. A basic rule is to stay ALERT to your surroundings. Trust your instincts. Honor your intuition. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave!

Evaluate the extent to which you lead a security conscious lifestyle by taking the following survey:

In The Home

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep doors and windows locked at all times? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have a peephole so that you can see who is outside without having to open the door? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you always verify a person's identification before opening your door? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If a stranger asks to use your phone, do you refuse to let them into your home and offer to make the call yourself? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you as a woman living alone use your first initials only in telephone directories, on mailboxes, etc? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you refuse to reveal personal information to anyone on the phone or at your door? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you always have your keys ready when approaching your home? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you return home to find windows and doors tampered with, would you avoid entering and go to a neighbor's house to call the police? |

On The Go

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you plan in advance to use the safest route to your destination? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you choose busy, well-lit streets? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid routes that pass by high-risk areas, i.e. vacant lots, alleys? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid isolated bus stops? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you walk near the curb to avoid the element of surprise or someone hiding between shrubs or in a doorway? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you stay out of reach if someone in a vehicle stops to ask directions? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you wary of approaching strangers? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you continue to be followed, do you flee to the nearest safe place? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you try to get a description of the person and/or vehicle following you? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid hitchhiking? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid carrying large sums of money in your purse or wallet? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you carry your purse close to your body, without wrapping the straps around your arm or hand? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid leaving a purse unattended, even for a moment? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid displaying large amounts of cash in public? |

If your answer is "NO" to any of these questions, consider a change in behavior to increase your security.

Telephone Answering

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you teach family members not to give personal or family information to strangers over the phone? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you record only non-specific messages on your answering machine and avoid messages like "we'll be back at 7 o'clock on Sunday?" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you receive an obscene or crank call, would you hang up immediately, saying nothing? |

In Your Car



- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you always lock your car doors while driving? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep windows rolled up whenever possible? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you avoid picking up hitchhikers? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you keep your car in good running order to avoid break downs in dangerous areas? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you look for well-lit areas to park your car? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you always lock your car when it is parked? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you look around the car before you get out, especially at night or in deserted areas such as underground parking lots? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | When returning to your car, do you have your keys in hand? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you look in the back seat before getting into the car? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you are being followed, do you avoid going home and go to the nearest place of safety instead? |