

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

SAFETY TIPS



At Crime Stoppers of Houston we teach situational awareness year-round, however there is an increase in crimes of opportunity over the holiday season. Because of that, it is important to remain vigilant throughout the holidays and arm yourself with safety measures. Happy holidays!

DID YOU KNOW?

MAIL THEFT:

In 2019, Texas Governor signed HB 37 which increased mail theft to a **felony offense** - maximum penalty being up to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.



The FBI estimates that there are at least **500,000** predators are active online every day.

- FBI.gov



A perpetrator decides if you are an easy target **within 7 seconds** of seeing you.



The majority of **sexual assaults** (55%) **occur at or near the victim's house.**

- rainn.org

Most violent and/or property crimes

in the US are **not reported** to police, and most of the crimes that are reported **go unsolved.**

- Pew Research



PREVENTION: SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



- Practicing safety regularly can help you/your body spring into action in an emergency - have a personal safety tool with you and practice using it.
- Stay alert by maintaining eye contact, keeping your head up, and greeting people as they walk by to show you are paying attention.
- There is safety in numbers. Do not walk alone especially at nighttime.
- Use your cell phone as a tool to help not as a distraction. Keep your phone handy when walking, running, or biking, but do not let it distract you from staying aware.
- Fight back when necessary. Learn simple self defense techniques and do not be afraid to fight back. Practice yelling things like **"STOP"** or **"GET BACK."**

RETURNING HOME SAFELY



- Be mindful when valeting your car - remove any valuables from your vehicle.
- Remove the "home" option from your car's navigation screen - clear history from time to time if your car allows for it
- When leaving places - look to see if you are being followed. If you sense that you are being followed - do NOT go home. Call your local Houston Police Department store front (save their number in your favorites) or neighborhood security office for guidance on what to do.
- Park and quickly close all gates or garage doors before exiting your car. If parking in a parking garage park closest to the elevator so you can move quickly and not walk as far.

RIDESHARE SAFETY



- The seat diagonally opposite from the driver is the safest place in the car for you to be able to exit the vehicle quickly or fight back if necessary.
- Check the inside of the door to see if the child safety lock is on BEFORE getting into the car.
- Be aware and alert the entire time you are utilizing a rideshare service - share your trip location with a trusted friend or family member.
- Keep all belongings with you and do not exit the car before any accompanying children.

HOME SECURITY



- Secure your home by making sure all windows and doors lock and utilize reinforcement locks for added security.
- If possible, utilize security cameras - even a fake camera can deter potential burglars.
- Ensure the outside of your home is well lit. A well-lit home can deter burglars.
- Avoid having unattended packages on your porch. Request a vacation hold for any scheduled packages.
- Many local police agencies will do complimentary "vacation patrols" while you are away on vacation.
- When you are away, leave some lights and the TV on to create the appearance of someone being home.
- Be careful about social media posts while you are on vacation. Posting while you are away tells predators that your home is likely empty.

PARTNERS & RESOURCES



- **Krav Haganah Global - Self Defense Classes:** <https://israeliselfdefense.net>
- **Savarese Fight Fit - Boxing and Self Defense Classes:** <https://www.savaresefightfit.com>
- **Pretty Loaded - Personal Safety Resources:** <https://prettyloaded.org>
- **Houston Police Department Victim Services Department:** <https://houstontx.gov/police/victim-services/index.htm> or 713-308-0080.
- **Harris County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division:** <https://app.dao.hctx.net/victim-services-division> or 713-274-0250.

WHERE TO REPORT



- **If in immediate danger, call 911!**
- **Crime Stoppers of Houston:** 713-222-TIPS or crime-stoppers.org.
- **Harris County Crimes Victims Unit:** 713-274-9369 or their online reporting portal: <https://www.harriscountytso.org/ReportCrime/Default>