

Minden Police Department

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Safety Tips

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings, wherever you are.
- Don't be taken by surprise. Be aware and be prepared.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary.

ON FOOT

- At night, walk in well-lit areas whenever possible.
- Try not to walk or jog alone.
- Carry your purse close to your body with a firm grip.

IN YOUR CAR

- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Control your keys. Never leave an identification tag on your keyring. If your keys are lost or stolen, it could help a thief locate your car and/or home.
- If carrying packages or valuable items, store them in your trunk. If you do leave packages, clothing or other valuables in the car; make sure they are out of sight.

ATM MACHINE

- Try to plan your ATM visits during the day, rather than after dark.
- After making a withdrawal, quickly place the money in your purse or wallet and leave as soon as you finish.
- Watch out for suspicious-looking people waiting around an ATM. They may not really be customers. If someone offers to let you go ahead of them, decline politely and leave.

MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS KNOW!

- How to call 911 in an emergency and how to use a public phone. Help them practice making emergency phone calls. Be sure emergency numbers – police, fire, poison control, and emergency medical – are by all phones.
- Their full name, address, and phone number, plus your work and cell phone number.

- To walk and play with friends, not alone.
- To refuse rides or gifts from anyone, unless it's someone both you and your child know and trust.
- To tell a trusted adult immediately if anyone, no matter whom, touches them in a way that makes them uncomfortable.

HOME ALONE! WHAT KIDS SHOULD KNOW...

- What steps you want them to follow when they get home; such as phoning you at work or a neighbor or grandparent who is at home.
- Not to let strangers, adults or children into the home for any reason.
- Not to tell telephone callers that they're alone.
- That door and window locks must always be used. Be sure your children know how to work them.
- Not to go into the home if a door is ajar or a window is broken, but to go to a neighbor's or public phone and call the police.
- Your rules about acceptable activities when you are not at home. Be very clear.

SAFE AT HOME

- Clearly display your house number, so police and other emergency vehicles can find your home quickly.
- Make sure all porches and other entrances are well-lit.
- Don't hide your extra keys under the doormat or in a flowerpot. It's much wiser to give an extra key to a trusted neighbor.

WHEN YOU GO AWAY

- Ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and newspaper, and offer to return the favor.
- Leave word about when you're leaving, when you'll return, and how you can be reached in an emergency.
- Put automatic timers on at least two lights and possibly a radio to help your home look and sound lived-in.

FRAUD & SCAM AVOIDANCE

- Don't let greed overcome your common sense
- Be wary of ... high-pressure sales; demands for 'cash only'; pressure for quick decisions; secret deals; no-risk, high-yield investments
- Get a second opinion from someone you trust.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- **Fraudulent Phone Scams**
 - If a caller asks for your credit card number to verify a free gift, hang up. Your number may be used to charge purchases by phone.

- Make sure you know the charges before calling a 900 number. Most 800 numbers are free and 900 numbers aren't.
- Be very suspicious if you receive a collect call from someone who says he's a law enforcement officer with emergency info about a family member, requesting your phone card number to charge the call. Other variations of this scam include a telephone company investigator checking a system failure, or an FCC official investigating a complaint.
- Ask for financial reports if a caller requests a charitable donation. Reputable charities will always send this information if you ask.
- Never make an investment with a stranger over the phone.