

Personal Safety

1. Travel in pairs. There is safety in numbers. When jogging, go with a friend. When shopping, go with someone else. It is fun and safer.
2. When working, do not take jobs where you must travel alone to secluded areas or in a store where you must work at night by yourself.
3. In considering weapons for protection, remember to use a weapon that you are familiar and proficient. Any weapon can be taken away from you and used on you. Do not use a weapon as a security blanket. No weapon will be effective 100% of the time. Also, make sure you are within the law when considering any weapon.
4. Report all Crimes that occur, no matter how minor. Often a series of crimes may develop a pattern.
5. The Objective of any personal attack for victims is to survive! If someone robs you, the money or items that they steal can be replaced. Even in the case of rape, survival is the important thing. If it appears that you may not survive, do what you must in order to survive. There are no rules to fighting for your life. Awareness is very important for prevention. The bad guys look for people who are unaware of their surroundings. Walk with your head up and your eyes scanning things around you. Report suspicious persons and activities. Watch out for each other.
6. Be alert when at an ATM machine. If someone is lurking nearby, it is better to stop trying to get money and go to another one. Report any incident to the Sheriff's Office.
7. Do not enter an ATM, telephone card, or other PIN or ID number with someone watching over your shoulder.
8. When going to your car at a mall or shopping center, have your keys in your hand. Your keys can become a weapon in your hand or thrown at a suspect allowing you to get away. You can also get pepper spray that will go on key rings that may help you blind someone long enough to get away.
9. Do not advertise the fact that you have money. The bad guys are looking for easy prey.
10. Do not give rides to strangers. You don't know if they are in need or trying to prey on you.
11. Carry a Cell phone to call for assistance for any reason-break down, someone following, etc.

For Further Information contact the Greenville County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at 422-2036.