Unwanted persons having access to your home address can create potentially dangerous situations. Use only your business address and phone number on your luggage tags. Also, be careful when allowing others to use your cell phone. Many of us keep confidential information stored there.

Always try to take care of your banking business during daylight hours. If you must use an ATM (automatic teller machine) at night, park in a well-lighted area, have all your forms ready, and check the area for anything suspicious before leaving your car. Consider asking a friend to accompany you to the ATM.

When staying in a hotel, never give your room number to a stranger. If you think someone suspicious overheard your room number, ask the front desk if you can change rooms. Never let anyone you do not know into your room. Lock up any valuables in the hotel safe; do not leave them in a drawer in your room. If a hotel employee knocks on your door and you did not request a hotel service, check with the front desk before letting them into your room.

No one wants to be a victim of crime. The responsibility belongs to all of us. Law enforcement cannot do it all. We must work together to decrease the opportunity for criminals.
At Home

In Your Car

On The Street

Remember: At Home

- Be careful when answering the door.
- Require callers to identify themselves before opening the door.
- Don’t advertise living alone.
- When away, keep a light on. Have your keys ready when you return.

Remember: On The Street

- Don’t walk alone at night.
- Carry a whistle and/or chemical mace (check your local ordinances).
- Don’t accept rides from strangers.
- Scream if being forced to enter a vehicle.
- There is safety in numbers.

Remember: In Your Car

- Check the back seat of your car before entering.
- Avoid the curb lane; keep doors locked.
- Don’t get out of your car in an emergency stop.
- Don’t pick up hitchhikers.

Other things you can do that go a long way toward making the home a safe place, day or night.

- Keep your home safe when you are away, even for a short period of time. Lock all entrances. Leave the drapes in the position you normally have them. Ask a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers if you will be gone for more than a day. Have a radio and light on a timer to discourage intruders. Have your key ready in hand when you return home, and enter promptly.

- Require callers to identify themselves before opening the door.
- Don’t advertise living alone.

- Learn the four "As." These could help prevent your becoming a victim.

Remember:
The Four As

Be Aware of your surroundings.
Be Alert to any unusual activities.
Avoid potential problem areas.
Take Action on information gained in this brochure, which is furnished by the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

In Your Home

Even in the comfort of your own home, you may find yourself vulnerable to burglary, robbery, and sexual attack. The home can be bolstered to make it more secure. There are also things you can do that go a long way toward making the home a safe place, day or night.

Care should be taken when answering the door. A peephole, one-way mirror, or a two-way communications system can be installed in the door so you can see and/ or hear who is knocking or ringing your doorbell. Never open the door automatically after a knock. Require the caller to identify himself to your satisfaction.

A sad commentary of our times is that it is unsafe to walk on many of our streets — especially at night and for women alone.

The best rule a woman can follow is to never walk alone at night. If you must walk alone, stay on well-lighted streets as much as possible. Walk facing traffic so you can see anyone who might be driving toward you. Carry a whistle in your hand, and blow it hard if there is trouble. Always be alert. Walk with confidence, with your head up, and look around. You will seem less like an easy target.

In Your Car

Women must be cautious when traveling alone. Before getting into a car, look into the back seat to see if someone is hiding there. Have the door key in hand and enter the car promptly. Keep the windows rolled up and all doors locked as you travel. Don’t leave your purse on the passenger seat; you may be inviting theft. Place your purse in the floor.

Try to stick to the major trafficways instead of side streets through questionable neighborhoods. This is especially true when driving at night. Try to avoid the curb lane when you stop at intersections. If someone approaches your car and attempts to get in, drive off, but watch for other cars and for pedestrians. Use commercial parking facilities whenever possible; otherwise, park in a well-lighted area.

Remember:
In Your Car

- Check the back seat of your car before entering.
- Avoid the curb lane; keep doors locked.
- Don’t get out of your car in an emergency stop.
- Don’t pick up hitchhikers.