



# Personal Safety in Parking Lots

## DOING YOUR PART

**Are you practicing Parking Lot Safety? If not, you could be increasing your chances of becoming a victim of crime!**

Becoming a victim of crime is never your fault; however, there are a few things you can do to lower your chances of becoming a victim of crimes that could occur in a parking lot.



**Even when you are doing your part to lower your chances of becoming a victim, there's still a chance you could be targeted. If this happens, there's more you can do to help the police apprehend the offender!**

Get as much information about the suspect as possible. This includes a clothing description, hair style and color, approximate height and weight, general build, and any other characteristics that might help police identify the suspect.

This goes for vehicles as well. Try to get information about the make, model, approximate year (newer or older model), and the license plate information, including the issuing state and tag number. Sometimes, even minor details like body damage, decals, or other markings on the vehicle can help police to identify a suspect's vehicle.

**This is a lot of information to remember; keep a pen or pencil and a small notepad in your car just in case!**

## BEING A GOOD WITNESS



## BE AWARE



**Do you know what's going on around you?**

Try to remain aware of your surroundings; this includes looking at the lighting in areas you are parking in or walking through, the people that are around you, whether the area is a high traffic area, and possible places that someone could be hiding.

## FREE HANDS



**Are you carrying too much or carrying your bags unsafely?**

Avoid carrying a large number of bags or items that could compromise your ability to react quickly. To do this, try to transport only items that you need, make multiple trips between your destination and your car, or have someone help you carry your items.

## WALK SAFELY



**Are your walking habits jeopardizing your safety in a parking lot?**

In some cases, criminals choose their targets based on perceived ease of committing a crime. To make yourself a more unappealing target, try to walk with a purpose, walk in groups when you can, avoid advertising your personal belongings or distracting yourself, and keep your keys and cell phone readily available in case you need them.

## GUT FEELING



**Do your instincts tell you that something is wrong?**

Occasionally, a situation will just feel "wrong". Someone will look like they don't belong, they may be acting strangely, staring at people as they walk by, or just give you that feeling that the situation isn't right. In these cases, call the non-emergency line of your local law enforcement agency—your call could stop a potential crime!

## NON-EMERGENCY



**UCF Police Department**

• (407) 823-5555

**Orange County Sheriff's Office**

• (407) 836-4357

**Seminole County Sheriff's Office**

• (407) 665-6650

**Oviedo Police Department**

• (321) 235-5300

**Orlando Police Department**

• (407) 971-5700

**For an emergency, a crime in progress or a crime that just occurred, ALWAYS dial**

# 9-1-1!