

Crime Prevention

Provided by the Fraternal Order of Police

Being a victim of a crime is a very personal experience. It can affect you for years and shape the way you live the rest of your life. Self defense tactics such as marshal arts classes and non-lethal defense weapons such as pepper spray and tasers may help you feel safer and combat victimization, but this information is to help PREVENT you from being a victim of a crime. We prefer you are never in an incident where someone attempts to victimize you in the first place. This information provided is proactive as compared to reactionary, and although you will never completely eliminate your chances of being a victim you can greatly reduce the chances you will be a target. It is also important to remember that the information provided is not absolute. You have to educate yourself as much as possible, arming yourself with knowledge, and if a situation does arrive where you become a victim apply and adapt what you know based off of what you feel is the appropriate decision.

KEY NOTIONS

BE AWARE: You can see what types of crimes are occurring in your neighborhood. CrimeReports.com is updated daily from the Lorain Police Department and gives you the ability to see the crimes occurring in your neighborhood. If you see burglaries are happening around your area consistently, take extra precautions in home security and look out for suspicious activity in your neighborhood.



NO AMOUNT OF MONEY IS WORTH JEOPARDIZING YOUR SAFETY OR YOUR LIFE: If a criminal is after property of yours, whether it is your car, money, jewelry, or any valuables, and you are unable to escape, comply as best as you are able and give them the property. The criminal often wants your property and wishes to flee immediately after.

THERE IS SAFETY IN NUMBERS: No matter where you are (at home, driving to the store, taking a jog at the park,...) you are always more safe if you have at least one person with you. It isn't reasonable to assume that you can never be alone, but whenever possible try to seek the company of at least one trusted person.

STRANGER DANGER: Many people perceive criminals as always being strangers. It is true that a stranger may be the criminal, but with many types of crimes the criminal is more often someone the victim knows; a family member, neighbor, ex-girlfriend/boyfriend, friends, or acquaintances.

TARGET HARDENING: Many criminals look for the easiest target. If there is are too many potential negative barriers, such as a higher threat of being detected, the criminal may move to another target that he/she finds easier.

What Crime is Really Happening?

For a multitude of reasons, in today's world, the fear or perception of crime is worse than the reality of crime. There is no need to live a life fearing victimization, but being prepared can lessen your chances of victimization.

Every year the Lorain Police Department, and a majority of departments in the U.S., report certain crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (F.B.I.) for statistical purposes. The crimes focused on predominantly are Part One Crimes. Part One Crimes can be split into two categories; violent crimes and property crimes. Violent crimes are crimes such as rape, murder, robbery, and felonious assault. Property crimes are crimes where property is either stolen or damaged.

In Lorain there was a total of 3,349 Part One Crimes Reported in 2010.

2,997 (89%) of these reported crimes were property crimes.

352 (11%) of these crimes were violent crimes.

In this booklet we will teach you how to prevent property crimes and violent crimes. Being a victim of either type of these crimes is emotionally and psychologically detrimental. Now that we know the reality of crime in Lorain, we can move forward to reducing your chances of becoming a target!

Protection Orders

Victims of certain types of violent crimes may be eligible for a protection order. There are four types of protection orders enforceable by the police.

- Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVTPO)
- Criminal Protection Order (CrPO)
- Civil Protection Order (CPO)
- Stalking Sexually Oriented Offender Protection Order (SSOOPO)

Make sure you have the protection order on you at all times. Have ABSOLUTELY NO contact with the defendant until the case is over.

Carjacking

Carjacking is the act of a car being taken by force or by the threat of force.

Keep your door locked, and if possible your windows up.

When you stop at an intersection, leave enough space in between the car in front of you and your own automobile so that at any time you could maneuver around it if you needed to escape.

Do not help stranded strangers. Instead contact the police.

If someone approaches your car and attempts to be conversational, or asks for information, try to avoid the situation as much as possible. If you do choose to respond, do so with your doors locked and windows up.

If you are confronted try to not panic. Avoid any physical or verbal confrontation. If you are pulled from your car, cooperate as much as possible. Your safety is your number one priority. Remove yourself from the situation when possible and contact the police, giving them a description of your car, the carjacker, and the direction the carjacker was headed.

Automatic Teller Machine Safety

More commonly known as ATMs, these machines are used commonly.

Before you approach the ATM, evaluate the surroundings.

Is the ATM well lit?

Are there objects, such as bushes, that may provide cover for would be thieves?

If something feels wrong, go with your feeling. Go to another ATM or wait and return to that ATM at a more safe time.

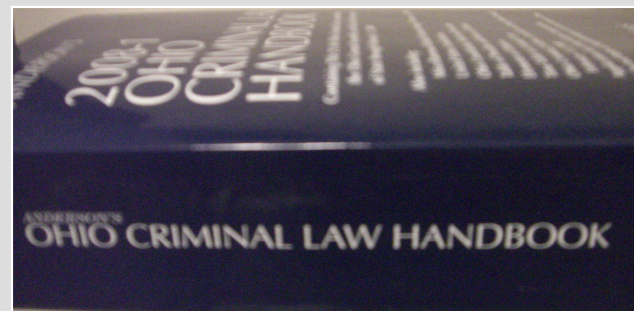
If possible don't use ATMs accessible only by walking. There is a greater chance of vulnerability, especially at night.

If you use a ATM only accessible by walking, carry yourself with confidence. Don't appear vulnerable or easy to victimize.

Always be aware of everything in your environment, not just people.

After you withdraw your money, discretely place it in a concealed location.

If you are approached by a thief, comply within reason if they are after the money. No amount of money is worth your life.



Sexual Assault and Rape

It does not matter what your socio economic status, ethnicity, sex, or appearance is, any person can become a victim of sexual assault or rape. Do not discount yourself.

Contrary to popular belief, around one-third of rapes occur in the home of the victim.

A majority of rapes are also committed by friends, family members, acquaintances, or social companions of the victim.

For preventative measures of being sexually assaulted:

- ◆ If possible travel with a friend.
- ◆ Stay in well lit areas.
- ◆ Be aware of your surroundings.
- ◆ Carry yourself with confidence, don't appear vulnerable.
- ◆ Walk on the side of the street facing incoming traffic.
- ◆ Never open a door without knowing who is on the other side.
- ◆ If you notice suspicious activity in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to contact your neighbors or the police.

Remember that you have the right to say "NO" at any time.

Be weary of inviting someone into your home, or of accepting invitations into someone's home.

It is important to understand that no one ever asks to be raped. It is never your fault. You have no reason to feel guilty or ashamed.

Seek medical attention and contact the police. It is also strongly suggested that you seek counseling.

Look out for those who can't for themselves...

Be aware of signs of incest and pedophilia in children, especially your own children. Boys and girls can become victims of sexual assault. Although it may be the case of a stranger, in most cases of pedophilia the perpetrator is an older family member; a parent, step-parent, uncle, or cousin. Also be conscientious of adults in positions of trust with children, such as teachers and baby sitters.

Children often fear reporting their abuse, so you have to look for any signs. Remember that abusers also seldom assault only one child. If you have suspicion or know of someone who has abused your child, or a child you know, do not hesitate to call the police.



Protecting Your Home and Automobile

Burglaries, Breaking and Entering, Vandalism, Larceny, & Auto Theft

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

"CPTED is the proper design and effective use of the built environment which may lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life." (National Crime Prevention Institute)

There are three basic principles:

- Natural Surveillance
- Access Control
- Natural Territorial Reinforcement

Remember to lock your doors at all times, even when you are home. This includes cars and garage doors.

Secure your garage door opener. They serve as another key that allows access into the house.

Most break ins are relatively unsophisticated, and are "crimes of opportunity."

Upgrade your home security to slow a burglar down, create noise, and eliminate hidden areas. Time, noise, and light are three factors that inhibit the decision making process of target selection.

Look into purchasing an alarm system catered to the specific needs of your home.

Keep your windows closed and locked when you are away.

Shrubs that provide you with privacy also give a burglar a place to hide. Keep bushes low and prune trees up. Remember the three foot/seven foot rule. Keep low lying vegetation trimmed to no higher than three feet, and trees should be trimmed so they hang no lower than seven feet.

Maintain proper exterior lighting. Make sure every entranceway, including your garage, has proper lighting. When lighting is used with a timer or sensor, it helps reduce the amount of energy used.

Maintain proper interior lighting. When you are away from your home keep some interior lights on. This creates the appearance that someone is home.

Update and install proper locks at all doors and windows.

If you come home and your house/apartment displays signs of being broken into, DO NOT enter. Contact the police as the criminal(s) may still be inside.

Pedestrian Safety

Use the buddy system.

Do not carry large sums of cash or jewelry that may attract attention.

If you are faced with a robber, minimize the likelihood of injury and cooperate as best as you can and give up the money. In many cases the criminal only wants the money. Your safety is the number one priority.

Panhandlers

Do not give money to panhandlers. There are better ways to help the homeless. Remember that food, shelter, and assistance is available to those in need.

When you walk past a panhandler, walk with purpose and with confidence. Do not appear vulnerable in any way.

Panhandlers use different stories to make you feel guilty and pity for their situation. Do not give in. They are using tactics that they find the most successful in getting money from people.

Panhandlers may also become aggressive. If you feel threatened or intimidated call the police immediately. Be able to provide the time of the incident, the location, a description of the panhandler, and the direction they were heading in.

Reclaim Your Stolen Property!

Being a victim of a burglary is frustrating. Often the items you treasure most, are worth enough value that the burglar decides they are worth taking. Burglars do get caught frequently though. Sometimes police are able to recover the stolen property. Burglars typically victimize many homes, and recovered property typically comes from several different residences. There are ways that you can increase your chances of getting your stolen property back.

Personalize your items. An easy way of tracing your items back to you is by engraving your driver's license number, as well as the state of issue.

If it is important to you, keep serial numbers. Have one list with the serial numbers of all of the items important to you.



For your safety....



What should you do if you are stopped by law enforcement?

When stopped by law a law enforcement officer, it is common for the average law abiding citizen to become angry, fearful, or nervous. Officers are trained and also reconfirm through experience, that looking for and finding these emotions can be a strong indication of criminal behavior. These emotions also increase the chances that a criminal will take flight from, and/or assault an officer. Unfortunately law abiding citizens sometimes give false indications. Despite being overwhelmed with these emotions, try to calm yourself down and communicate effectively with the officer. This will help make the situation a lot easier on yourself and the officer if a situation can be worked out peacefully and calmly. Remember the officer is actually trying to serve you and protect you from those who truly are engaging in criminal activity.

Remember the **Golden Rules** for encounters with law enforcement

DO NOT carry weapons, unless you have a permit. Do not make a joke about having a weapon in your possession for your safety. Officers are confronted with real life situations where weapons are involved, so to them it is not a joke.

DO NOT make any physical contact with the police officer. Allow the officer to have their three feet of personal space.

DO NOT make sudden movements. If you have to obtain any documents or grab your wallet, first inform the officer of your intentions and make sure he has given his approval.

DO NOT be argumentative. It will only prolong your encounter and cause unnecessary delays.

Lorain Police Department Directory

Chief's Office

440-204-2103

Dispatch

440-204-2100

Jail

440-204-2113

Traffic/Patrol

440-204-2115

Detectives

440-204-2105

Narcotics

440-204-2108

Records

440-204-2114