

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS TO HELP YOU AT MU

### **General:**

- ◆ Always lock and secure your car and never leave your valuables, including cell phones and CD cases, in plain view.
- ◆ Always lock your bicycle with a U-lock through the front wheel and frame to the bike rack.
- ◆ Engrave your driver's license number or other personal identifying number onto valuables. Keep a record of the basic description of these items including their make, model, and serial numbers.
- ◆ Always lock your door(s) when sleeping or away from your residence hall room.
- ◆ Do not keep large amounts of money in your possession. Keep your checks, credit cards and other items of value secured and out of sight.
- ◆ Always keep your room keys with you, even when going to the showers. Do not lend your keys to others.
- ◆ Do not prop open any exterior residence hall doors.
- ◆ Report any suspicious person or activity to the Police Department at 882-7201.
- ◆ Always ask, "who's there?" before saying "come in."
- ◆ At night avoid dark, secluded routes in your travels on and about campus. Be aware of the location of emergency phones and plan your route accordingly.
- ◆ Identify all textbooks by placing specific marking known only to you. Record all such identifying markings.
- ◆ Don't leave your backpack or books unattended.
- ◆ Don't leave your long distance access code in a conspicuous place where anyone may see it.
- ◆ Have a "designated friend" when you go out. This person should be the designated driver and should look out for people in your party who may be drugged or so intoxicated they are making poor decisions. This person should be completely sober.

### **Personal Safety in the Parking Garage**

- ◆ Walk to your vehicle with your keys in hand. Do not place keys between the web of your fingers as a weapon, this will hurt you more than anyone else. Instead hold your door key between your first finger and thumb, it can be used to jab at eyes or soft tissue if needed. If you use a remote, unlock only the driver's side door.
- ◆ When walking to your vehicle in the garage-walk with the flow of traffic. This allows you to see between vehicles as you approach, providing less opportunity for others to remain hidden.
- ◆ Walk with others or make arrangements to leave work with others.

- ◆ Check in with a friend or family member and let them know that you are leaving/arriving so that they are aware of your plans.
- ◆ Check the interior of your vehicle before getting in by glancing in the windows.
- ◆ Know the location of the nearest exit and emergency phone. Emergency phones are located at the stairwells of each garage level.
- ◆ If you see someone acting suspiciously, report that information to the University Police Department. You can contact the Police by using one of the emergency telephones in the garage or by dialing 911.
- ◆ If you carry mace or other personal protection devices make sure that you have used them before, know how they work, and could use them quickly under stress.

**The MU Police Department offers the following crime prevention tips to drivers:**

- ◆ Always keep your vehicle locked with windows up, even while driving.
- ◆ Park in well-lighted areas.
- ◆ Avoid isolated roads and short-cuts.
- ◆ Never pick up hitchhikers or people you don't know well.
- ◆ Keep your vehicle in good repair. Make certain you have enough fuel.
- ◆ Remain inside your vehicle if you develop mechanical trouble. Keep the doors locked and the windows up until help arrives. To signal distress, put up the hood or display a sign. If someone stops to offer help, don't leave the vehicle; ask that they call the police or a service provider.
- ◆ If you are followed, drive to the nearest open business for help, or go to a police or fire station.
- ◆ When dropping someone off, wait until passengers have safely entered their residence or destination.
- ◆ If involved in a minor collision at night or in an isolated location, do not exit to inspect damage or contact the other driver. Signal the other driver with your lights, and proceed to the nearest lighted and occupied business or police station.

**The MU Police Department offers the following crime prevention tips to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a non-stranger rape:**

- ◆ For your first few meetings, go somewhere public and consider driving yourself to the location until you feel comfortable with the person you are meeting.
- ◆ Let others know what your plans are and what time to expect your return.
- ◆ Be aware of individuals who take conversational liberties or touch inappropriately.
- ◆ Discuss limits and expectations of the date and relationship with the person you are seeing.
- ◆ If you choose to consume alcohol, drink moderate levels of alcohol.

- ◆ If on a date, when your date is over, say your good-byes at a public place or in the vehicle so you do not feel pressured to invite the person in your room.
- ◆ If you feel that you may be the victim of a sexual assault facilitating drug get help immediately. These drugs can incapacitate someone in a very short time.
- ◆ Know that sexual violence is not the fault of the victim. Only the perpetrators can completely prevent rapes and sexual assaults.

**The MU Police Department offers the following crime prevention tips to help reduce your chances of becoming a victim of a vehicle break in:**

- ◆ Remove all valuables from your vehicle and store them in your residence.
- ◆ Keep CD cases out of the public view.
- ◆ Lock the doors to your vehicle at all times.
- ◆ Park in well lit areas.
- ◆ Check your vehicle daily for damage or tampering.
- ◆ Report suspicious activity to the police.

**The MU Police Department offers the following vehicle safety tips for travel:**

- ◆ Plan your route ahead of time. Have maps and directions in the vehicle before you leave.
- ◆ Call local police departments or use services like Triple A to clarify directions before you leave.
- ◆ Always try and have at least a half a tank of gas. This will help if weather, construction, or vehicle problems cause you to become stranded.
- ◆ Always remember the last exit you passed to assist you in getting help to your location.
- ◆ If using a rental vehicle, try and remove all markings that would indicate it as a rental vehicle.
- ◆ Carry in the vehicle an empty gas container, a gallon of water (allowing room in the container for expansion if freezing temperatures), food bars, blankets, a candle, and a "call for help" sign.
- ◆ Learn how to change a tire and perform basic maintenance on your vehicle before traveling.
- ◆ Allow yourself plenty of time to get to a location.

**The University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department offers the following robbery prevention and safety tips as we approach the holiday shopping season.**

- ◆ In a robbery situation be prepared to give the robber your wallet, purse, or other object they may be asking for. Your property can be replaced, but your life can not.

- ◆ In a robbery situation the robber is also under great stress. Do not make quick movements or argue with the robber. This will only increase the robber's stress and increase the chances of injury to you.
- ◆ If you are carrying a purse, brief case, or other bag with a shoulder strap, do not put the strap over your head as this may lead to you being dragged by the robber. When possible place the strap over your shoulder and under a coat or arm.
- ◆ When possible walk in pairs. There is strength in numbers which may reduce your chances of becoming a victim.
- ◆ Walk in areas that are well lighted. Lighting is one of the cheapest and most effective crime prevention techniques.

**As students prepare to leave for spring break, the University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department offers the following tips to help ensure a safe spring break:**

If traveling by car remember the following:

- ◆ Plan your route ahead of time. Have maps and directions in the vehicle before leaving.
- ◆ Travel with an empty gas container, a gallon of water (allowing room in the container for expansion if freezing temperatures), food bars, blankets, a candle, and a "call for help" sign.
- ◆ Learn how to change a tire and perform basic maintenance on your vehicle before traveling.
- ◆ Allow plenty of time to reach your destination.

If traveling by air consider the following:

- ◆ Allow plenty of time at airports. Remember these added security measures are to help ensure that you reach your destination safely.
- ◆ For travel advisories concerning security threats at your destination, call the Department of Transportation's Travel Advisory Line at 1-800-221-0673.
- ◆ Keep your photo identification accessible. If you do not have a photo ID, make sure you have two pieces of identification, one of which must be issued by a government authority. Minors are not required to have identification. Failure to have proper identification may result in additional delays and some airlines may prohibit boarding.

**The University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department offers the following crime prevention tips as the school year comes to a close:**

- ◆ Do not leave books and bags unattended. The end of the school year offers a lot of opportunities for a thief to steal books and sell them at book buy back locations.

- ◆ Watch for credit card solicitors. Criminals use this as an opportunity to obtain valuable personal information from students.
- ◆ Do not leave doors to residence halls and apartment buildings propped open. Open doors are open invitations to criminals.
- ◆ Make sure to lock your bicycle to a bicycle rack. It only takes seconds for a criminal to ride off on an unsecured bike.
- ◆ Walk in pairs. When attending those late night study sessions or events try and walk with a partner.
- ◆ Don't drink and drive. End the school year on a positive note with good grades and a safe trip home.

Remember these are only tips, you can do everything right and still be the victim of a crime. If a crime happens to you call the University Police at 882-7201