

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

Some people have the wrong idea about sexual assault. They think the attacker was overcome with sexual desire, or the victim "asked for it." These ideas assume that sexual assault is motivated by sexual desire. It isn't. It is a violent crime intended to hurt, humiliate, and control the victim. Sex is only the weapon.

Prevention Tips:

At Home...

- * List only initials and last name on your mail box.
- * Keep all entrances where you live well-illuminated with proper lighting.
- * Install deadbolt locks and door viewers. Keep doors (and windows) locked at all times.
- * Ask repairmen/deliverymen for their Id. Have them wait outside while you call the company for verification. If a stranger asks to use your phone because of an emergency, make the call for him.
- * Do not give personal information (name, address, phone number) to a stranger on the phone.
- * If someone dials your number "by mistake" do not reveal your correct number.
- * If someone is prowling outside your home, call the police. If someone breaks into your home, try to get out safely. If you can't get out, lock doors between you the intruder.

On The Street...

- * An attacker expects a passive victim, so if you walk slowly or in a daze, you will seem vulnerable to a potential rapist. Walk at a steady pace, appear confident and purposeful.
- * Be alert to what's around you. Listen for footsteps and voices nearby. Look around.
- * If you think you are being followed, change your pace. If the person changes his pace to coincide with yours, cross the street, get to lighted areas, and draw attention to yourself.
- * When being followed by a vehicle, quickly turn around and walk in the opposite direction; Keep more than an arms distance from vehicles, even if the occupants are asking for directions.
- * Do not take short cuts through alleys or parking lots. Stay with a group when possible.
- * Never get into a stranger's vehicle, even if your car breaks down.
- * If being forced to enter a vehicle on a city street, your chances of getting help are better there than in a deserted area where the rapist may plan to take you.

In Your Car...

- * Always keep car doors locked and park in well-lighted areas in sight of other people.
- * Be alert to vehicles following yours. If being followed, drive to the nearest police/fire station or anywhere large crowds of people are gathered. Do not drive to your home. Call the police!
- * Have your keys out and ready to slip into the door lock when approaching your car. Be alert.
- * Leave only your ignition key with parking lot attendants or service station repairmen, as they could make a copy of your home key for later use.