Safety Tip of the Month

Crime Prevention & Awareness

Crime is still an unfortunate issue within modern society.

This month LACOE Risk Management would like to provide safety tips on crime prevention.

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention:

- Always roll up windows and lock doors, when leaving your car.
- Whenever possible park in well lit areas.
- Always be aware of the area you are parking in.
- Car theft is a crime of opportunity, hide all valuables out of view. If you can see them from outside of the vehicle, so can thieves.
- The trunk of your car is a good place to place valuables.
- If the situation makes you uneasy, memorize or jot down the car’s tag number and description; signal the other car to follow you.
- Drive to the nearest police station or to a busy well-lit area.
- If you do get out of the car, take your keys (and purse or wallet if you have one) and stay alert.

The “Bump and Rob”

What is it? It is a car theft which occurs when a car, usually with a driver and at least one passenger, rear-ends or “bumps” you in traffic. You quickly get out to check the damage and exchange information. Either the driver or one of the passengers jumps in your car and drives off.

Here are some safety tips when your car gets “bumped” by another:

- Look around before you get out.
- Make sure there are other cars around, check out the car that’s rear-ended you and who’s in it.
- If you think you are being followed, change directions. If someone is following you by foot, cross the street and vary your pace.
- If you think someone is following you by car, turn and walk in the opposite direction. Go to the nearest store or public place.

Street Crime Prevention

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and trust your instincts.
- Know where you are going and the safest way to get there.
- Walk/run in well-traveled, well lit areas avoiding short cuts through alleys and parking lots.
- Carry a whistle or similar type noisemaker. In the event of an emergency, the sound may scare potentially dangerous individuals.
- Take special care when jogging or biking. Vary your route, go with a friend, and avoid isolated areas.
- Wearing headphones and listening to music when walking in public can make you a potential target.
- If you think you are being followed, change directions. If someone is following you by foot, cross the street and vary your pace.
- If you think someone is following you by car, turn and walk in the opposite direction. Go to the nearest store or public place.

Office Crime Prevention

- Keep your purse, wallet, keys or other valuable items with you at all times or locked in a drawer.
- Check the identity of strangers who are in your office. Ask whom they are visiting and if you can help find that person. If this makes you uncomfortable inform security about your suspicions.
- Let someone in the office know where you’ll be — whether it’s coming in at a different time, going to the mail room, lunch, or a meeting.
- Report any broken or flickering lights, doors that don’t lock properly that should, or broken windows.

These safety tips are provided by www.lapdonline.org & www.cambridgema.gov/cpd