

PERSONAL PROTECTION DEVICES

Personal protection devices should be chosen based upon each individual. There are many different types of personal protection for the home, car or individual and both the advantages and disadvantages of each should be considered before a decision is made.

FIREARM PROTECTION

The decision to own or carry a firearm is one that should be carefully considered. Legal implications, education and training are only a few of the considerations of owning a gun. For those who do choose a firearm, responsible use and safe storage are a must. The Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office offers a number of courses pertaining to gun use and ownership.

See the back of this form for additional information.

SELF-DEFENSE PHYSICAL TRAINING

A self-defense course can be very useful to the safety-minded individual. Numerous defense tactics are explained and individuals are given "hands-on" training if requested. The Lafayette Sheriff's Office offers Streetwise Self-Defense Classes at various times each month at it's training center on St. Antoine Street.

See the information on the back of this pamphlet to schedule a class

LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING CENTER COURSES:

**Civilian Firearms
Hunter Education
Streetwise Self-Defense**

CALL 236-5607 TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS



LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MAIN OFFICE:
316 W. Main St.
Lafayette, LA 70502

Phone: 232-9211

TRAINING CENTER:
111 South St. Antoine St.
Lafayette, LA 70501

Phone: 236-5607

LAFAYETTE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Michael W. Neustrom, Sheriff

PERSONAL PROTECTION PLAN



**Common Sense Tactics
To Help Create Your
Own Safety Strategy**

*"Serving the community with courtesy,
professionalism and respect."
-Sheriff Michael W. Neustrom*

USEFUL SAFETY TIPS TO CONSIDER WHEN CREATING YOUR PROTECTION PLAN



Home Security

- **Consider a Home Security System.** Home alarms can be effective deterrents to criminal intruders. Many different systems are available from inexpensive to more technologically advanced alarms.
- **Never open your door to a stranger.** Many criminals can get a good look at you and your home by posing as a salesman or serviceman.
- **Install a wide-angle door viewer.** These inexpensive “peep-holes” aid in the identification of people at your door. A second viewer at a lower level should also be considered if children are allowed to open the door.
- **Never tell a stranger that you are home alone.** If they ask for the man of the house, tell them he is home but cannot be disturbed.
- **Do not announce your plans aloud in public.** Unwanted listeners may use this to target you or your home.
- **Keep your home well lit.** Exterior sensory night-lights serve as great deterrents to burglars on the prowl while interior lights give the illusion of an occupied home.
- **Do not leave windows open or uncovered.** An open window is like an unlocked door while covered windows prevent people from looking directly into your home.
- **Keep trees and shrubbery around your home and windows well-trimmed.** When overgrown, these often provide excellent hiding places for criminals.
- **Plant defensive shrubbery around your home, especially by windows.** Plants with thorns or stiff, spiky leaves are less likely to harbor a criminal.
- **When moving into a new home, always change or re-key the locks.** Previous residents—and anyone they supplied keys to—has unrestricted access to your home.
- **Never hide an extra key in an easily accessible place.** Criminals know all of the “secret” hiding spots people use.
- **Lock your doors when working in your yard or other areas away from entry ways.**



Phone Security

- **Do not give information to strangers on the telephone.**
- **If you use an answering machine, do not announce your name and number as part of the message.**
- **Consider keeping a separate landline or cellular phone as a security device.**
- **Never give important information travel plans or credit card numbers over the phone, someone can easily use a scanner to hear your conversation.**



Automobile Security

- **Always have your keys out and ready before leaving a building to approach your car.**
- **Look around and in your car before entering.**
- **Use a two-piece key ring with your car keys separate from your other important keys. Parking valets and mechanics should only receive your car keys.**
- **If your vehicle has tinted windows, use the reflection to scan the area to either side and behind you.**
- **Lock your car door immediately after getting into the vehicle.**
- **Check your surroundings before you get out of the car.**
- **If you are in a car accident, stay in your car until police arrive.**
- **Consider owning/using a cellular phone for travel purposes.**
- **Fill up your vehicle with gas when it is about half-empty.**
- **Take your keys and lock your doors when you pump gas.**
- **Never pick up hitchhikers.**

Personal Security

- **Maintain your personal space. Keep your distance from strangers.** Stay alert! Don't let someone invade your comfort zone.
- **Be alert when leaving stores or shopping malls.** Be aware of your surroundings at all times
- **Don't use outside ATM's at night, or in unfamiliar or unsafe surroundings.**
- **Avoid filling your arms with packages.** Try to keep one arm free whenever possible.
- **Avoid stairwells in parking garages.** Walking down the ramp is much safer as long as you watch for cars.
- **When on the street, walk facing oncoming traffic.** This tactic makes it much more difficult to be followed.
- **If asked for directions by a driver, stay far enough away from the car so that you can turn and run easily.** And remember, you can always say that your not from here or that you don't know.
- **When friends drop you off at home or work, ask them to wait until you are safely inside before leaving.**
- **Approach any entryway where normal lighting is not functioning with extreme caution.** Removing, unscrewing or breaking bulbs is a common tactic of criminals.

