



NorthEast Citizens Patrol
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HOW TO DECREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING A ROBBERY VICTIM

- A traffic light is a good visual of how alert you should be in public and private places
 - Green:
 - You are relaxed and not particularly aware of your surroundings
 - Example: Sitting in your den or living room with the house locked up watching a Ravens or Orioles game.
 - Yellow:
 - You are alert and aware of your surroundings. You know who is in front, beside, and behind you.
 - ***You should be at this state of alertness whenever you leave your home***
 - You cannot be at this state of alertness if you are talking on a cell phone or listening to an I-Pod, as you are concentrating on your conversation or the music and not your surroundings. Also both cell phones and I-Pods are items often stolen by thieves.
 - Red: You are in a high state of alertness your adrenalin is flowing
 - Your adrenaline is pumping. You are very alert.
 - You would be at this state of alertness whenever you are under attack or afraid.
- If you are attacked
 - Make every attempt to flee
 - Scream and yell to draw attention to yourself and what is happening
- Other robbery prevention tips
 - **One of the items most frequently taken recently in street robberies is smart phones, particularly I-Phones. Thieves tend to target individuals using smart phones in public. This is occurring for several reasons:**
 - **Smart phones are easily resold, as the previous users information can be deleted and the phone reprogrammed for another number and user.**
 - **Victims using smart phones are not paying attention to their immediate environment. They are paying attention to their smart phone, and are easy prey.**
 - **Smart phones may contain information that enables the thief or another person to instigate an identity theft against the victim.**



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- **When you are in public, particularly on a public street, try to refrain from using your smart phone. Try to only use smart phones when you are in a relatively secure area such as: your office, a restaurant, or your home. When not in use, consider securing your cell phone on your person in a pocket or some type of holster.**
- **People using their cell phones while sitting in their cars have been targeted as robbery victims. Try to refrain from using your cell phone while sitting in a parked vehicle.**
- Try to shop, go out in the evenings, or attend events with friends.
 - Criminals are less likely to commit a crime amongst a group of people.
- Try to move about in well lighted areas.
- As you approach someone look them in the eye and say hello. This tells the person I see you and I can describe you later if I need to.
- Be aware of your surroundings, and if you become suspicious of someone seek a safe haven in a public area, business, or the home of someone you know.
- **Carjacking Prevention**
 - **To prevent being a victim of a carjacking, keep your car doors locked when you are operating your car.**
 - **Do not offer rides to or pick up people you do not know. They could potentially be carjackers.**
 - **Do not provide rides for hire if you are not a licensed cab, sedan, Uber, or Lyft service. This is called hacking, and it is illegal. People hacking have been victims of carjacking.**
 - **Always lock your vehicle when leaving it, this will prevent someone from entering an unlocked vehicle and carjacking your vehicle when you return to it.**
 - **If you are sitting in a parked vehicle, ensure the windows are up, the doors are locked, and the vehicle is running so that you can make a quick exit.**
 - **When returning to your vehicle, move as quickly as possible and immediately get into your vehicle and leave. Try not to loiter near your vehicle talking to other people.**
 - **If your car is struck from the rear, stay in the car. Keep your doors locked. Call the police. Wait for their arrival**
 - **If your car is struck from the rear in a poorly lighted or remote area, drive to a well-lighted area. Call the police. Await their arrival.**



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- When arranging to meet for online purchases such as those via Craig's List
 - Meet in a public spot preferably where there are surveillance cameras or a larger number of witnesses around
 - Do not bring cash with you – suggest paying with a certified check
 - Do not allow the seller into your vehicle
 - Tell a friend or family member where you are going and consider having them accompany you