

WHEN YOU'RE OUT (cont.):

- *Make sure someone knows where you're going and when you expect to return.
- *Avoid dark, deserted routes, even if they're the shortest.
- *Carry change for emergency telephone and transportation use.
- *Whenever possible, travel with friends to stores, the bank, or the doctor. Check with your police or sheriff, or senior citizen center about escort services.
- *Don't overburden yourself with packages and groceries that obstruct your view and make it hard to react.
- *Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.
- *When you drive, keep doors locked and windows up.
- *Park in well-lighted and busy areas.
- *If you have car trouble, be wary of strangers who offer help. Stay in your car and ask them to call a service truck or the police.
- *If a friend or a taxi takes you home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.
- *Communicate the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going.

WATCH OUT FOR CON ARTISTS:

- *Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true – a free vacation, sweepstakes prizes, cures for cancer and arthritis, cheap home repairs and/or gardening.
- *Never give your credit card, phone card, Social Security, or bank account numbers to anyone over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- *Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything – an insurance policy, a sales agreement, a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.

**GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY
JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH**

WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME:

- *Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you're inside.
- *Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or other security devices.
- *Make your home appear occupied when you go out by using a timer to turn on lights and a radio.
- *Never let strangers in your home without checking their identification. Call their company if you're not sure. Install a peephole in your door and use it.
- *If you live alone, don't advertise it. Use only your first initial in phone books, directories, and apartment mailboxes.
- *Get to know your neighbors and keep their phone numbers handy for emergencies.
- *Work out a "buddy" system with a friend to check on each other daily.
- *Engrave your valuables with a unique identification number recommended by the police. Local youth groups may provide this service free to seniors. Keep bonds, stock certificates, seldom worn jewelry, and stamp and coin collections in a safe deposit box.
- *Don't hide extra house keys under a doormat or in other obvious spots.

PROTECT YOUR MONEY:

- *Don't display large amounts of cash in stores or other public places.
- *Don't sign a check or contract until you're sure it's for a legitimate reason and know the details. Check with a friend, lawyer, or police officer if in doubt.
- *Never put your purse or wallet on a counter or in a shopping cart while you examine merchandise in a store.
- *Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations, or government agencies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- *If you're suspicious, check it out with the police, the **Better Business Bureau**, or your local consumer protection office. Do not pay for handy work in advance.
- ***NEVER GIVE OUT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET OR OVER THE PHONE.**
- *Do not use ATM machines that are isolated and don't let yourself be distracted when using them.

Always be aware of your surroundings and what is going on around you.