

Senior Citizen Crime Prevention Tips

from the
Duncanville Police Department's
Crime Prevention Division

For more information contact Officer Doug Sisk
(972) 780 – 5027 or dsisk@ci.duncanville.tx.us

Take these tips and be a partner for a safe community.

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just a job for the police. Crime can be reduced by simple measures like remembering to lock a door, knowing about common con games, and watching out for your neighborhood.

Although surveys consistently show that persons over 65 are victims of crime far less frequently than young people, many senior citizens are so worried about crime that they shut themselves up in their homes and rarely go out. But, isolating ourselves behind locked doors and not getting together with our neighbors actually makes it easier for criminals to work in the neighborhood.

Seniors are more vulnerable to certain crimes - purse snatching, assaults, and frauds. You can reduce opportunities for criminals to strike by being careful, alert, and a good neighbor.

ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION or IN A BUILDING:

- *Beware of overheard conversations and don't tell others where you are going.**
- *Stay awake and alert, have exact change ready, sit as close to the driver as possible.**
- *If you sense someone is following you when you get off, walk toward other people or to an open business.**
- *Avoid isolated corridors or hallways; be extra careful in stairwells and isolated or poorly lit restrooms.**
- *Avoid entering an elevator that is occupied by only one other person who is a stranger; in an elevator, stand near the controls and locate the emergency buttons.**
- *If you are assaulted while in an elevator, hit the emergency or alarm button and press as many floor buttons as possible.**

CALM program:

(Call and Leave Message)

This Duncanville Police program has been operational since 1979. The program is designed to call elderly people that might be confined to their homes on a daily basis to make sure everything is okay. Some individuals involved in this program have no family members in the immediate area. Contact Crime Prevention if you are interested in signing up for this program (972) 780-5027.

BE ALERT WHEN OUT AND ABOUT:

- *Go with friends or family, not alone.**
- *Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.**
- *Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash. If you must take a large sum, have a friend accompany you.**
- *Use direct deposit for social security and other regular checks.**