

The best defense is prevention.

We all like to feel safe and secure. It is important to know that everyone is responsible for their personal safety, To reduce the likelihood of being targeted by criminals, we need to use common sense, as well as thinking wisely and acting responsibly.

Be aware of your surroundings, trust your instincts, have a plan.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Community Resource Unit
Joe Sexton
360 - 473 - 5231**

Safety Tips When Walking



*Bremerton Police Department
1025 Burwell Street
Bremerton WA 98337*

Avoid walking alone. The “buddy system” is best, but not always possible. If you *do* walk by yourself, we offer these tips:

- Keep your cellphone handy.
- When walking, walk in the middle of the sidewalk and walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Attempt to appear confident and purposeful when you walk and be alert to your surroundings at all times.
- Plan and use the safest and most direct route to your destination.
- If you carry a purse, carry it close to your body, preferably in front. Carry no more money or credit cards than you absolutely need.
- When walking, try not to overload yourself with packages or other items. Keep your hands as free as possible.
- When walking, choose busy, well lighted streets and avoid isolated areas, alleys, vacant lots, and the like, even if they are easy shortcuts!
- When walking during hours of darkness in low-light areas, carry a flashlight.

- Wearing headphones, texting, or talking on your phone while walking can distract you and make you less aware to what is going on around you.

- When walking, carry a loud whistle or high decibel personal alarm. Use them to attract attention or summon help if you feel you are in danger. Carry the whistle or alarm in your hand so you can use it immediately.

- If followed or threatened by someone who is walking, use your whistle or personal alarm or yell loudly, walk quickly or run and change direction or cross the street and head for a well-lit area or occupied building. Call 911 immediately.

- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry or carrying large amounts of cash when walking.

- If a stranger in a vehicle slows down and begins to talk to you while walking, don't stop or engage in conversation. Walk quickly or run in the opposite direction to safety. Call 911 immediately. Try and obtain a description of the vehicle and the person(s) in the vehicle.

- Always park in visible, well-lighted areas.

- When you approach your parked vehicle, visually check the area around the vehicle for any suspicious persons or activity. If you observe anything suspicious walk to where there are other people and call 911.

- Have your keys ready when approaching your vehicle to reduce the time needed to enter.

- When operating your vehicle, keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.

- To avoid becoming the victim of a vehicle prowler, place any valuables in your car in the trunk or otherwise kept out of sight. Do this before you park; preferably at home. And better yet, keep your valuables at home and not in your car.

- Exercise extra caution when using underground and enclosed parking garages. Try not to go alone.

- If someone approaches your vehicle and attempts to enter, blow your horn to attract attention, drive away and call 911.