

Campus Safety Tips



University of California Police Department, Los Angeles

Residence Hall Safety Tips

While thefts, robberies and other unlawful activity continue at a relatively low level, adhering to basic crime prevention advice will help you reduce risk to yourself and also discourage those who commit crime. First, when entering your residence hall or building area, please respect access code rules; do not let strangers or unauthorized people into controlled areas. Second, make sure that you lock your door and windows when you leave your room. Even if you are only going to the bathroom, or are visiting a friend down the hall, you still should keep your door locked. Third, report all suspicious persons and activities to your residence director, or to UCPD.

Being alert and using common sense are the best ways to prevent crime from happening to you and those around you in our community. Continued vigilance and watchfulness are necessary to help you avoid becoming a victim of crime. By taking a few simple precautions you can reduce risk to yourself and also discourage those who commit crime.

Room/Suite Precautions

- Always lock your door behind you whenever you leave your room – even if just to go to the restroom.
- Close and lock your windows whenever you leave your room. Burglars have been known to break into rooms by walking out onto the ledge.
- IF YOUR WINDOW OR DOOR LOCKS DO NOT WORK, CALL THE FRONT DESK OF YOUR FACILITY.
- REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND ACTIVITIES TO UCPD, (310) 825-1491.
- Keep your valuables, purse or wallet out of plain view from the window.
- Have your keys ready and enter your dorm room/suite as quickly as possible when returning home.
- Keep your curtains and blinds closed at night.
- Do not hide door keys outside and do not loan keys to anyone other than family members or trusted friends.

- If you hear a prowler inside your dorm room/suite, get out, if possible, through a back door or window. Avoid any confrontation with the prowler.
- Place lights on a timer when away from your residence for an evening.
- Positively identify anyone at your front door before opening the door.
- Respect access code rules; do not let strangers into controlled areas.
- If a stranger asks to use your phone, get the information and place the call for him or her. Do not allow any stranger into your residence.
- Do not tape or put any objects in your door jam. You may forget that you've done so and leave your room vulnerable to theft..
- Keep your backpack in your room when eating in the dining halls. The cubby holes for backpacks are not monitored.
- If you have expensive equipment (computers, stereos, etc.), engrave them with your California ID or Driver's License number. You can borrow the Police Department's engraver for free; call 825-7661 for details.
- Have your computer software properly licensed. Enter the appropriate names of the owner into the computer when installing. Send your registration card into the software company so that there is a record of your purchase.
- Purchase a plastic keychain coil that fits around your wrist. You'll be able to take a shower and keep your keys in your possession.
- Check your peephole before you open your door. If you can't see anyone, don't open the door.
- Report any building safety problems to the R.A. or the front desk.
- Call for a C.S.O. escort (794-WALK), or the Evening Van (825-9800).

Street Precautions

- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you – especially if you are alone or it is dark.
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend. Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys where someone could hide.
- If you carry a purse, your personal safety might depend on not clinging to it. Although a purse snatcher's intent is to steal the purse, the grabbing and shoving that may take place could result in your being injured.
- If you carry an item to use as a weapon (e.g. keys, pen whistle, etc.) walk with it in your hand, rather than in your purse or pocket.
- Do not respond to conversation from strangers on the street – continue walking.
- Report all suspicious persons and activities to UCPD.

In the Libraries

- Avoid studying in overly secluded areas. Study with others or in areas where there are other people.
- Don't forget to eject your copy-card after you've made photocopies.
- Do not leave your belongings unattended. It only takes a few seconds for a thief to take all of your belongings.
- When leaving for the evening, call for a CSO Escort (794-WALK), or take the Evening Van (825-9800).

On Campus in the Evening

- Walk with a friend.
- Stay in well-lit, well-populated areas. Take the safest route, not the fastest route.
- Be aware of your environment. Don't be afraid to look over your shoulders. It's not rude to maintain a safe distance between yourself and others.
- Avoid blind corners. Take wide turns so that you have room to react to what's ahead.
- Carry your keys in your hands. They may be used as a weapon if necessary.
- Call for a CSO Escort (794-WALK), or take the Evening Van (825-9800).

In the Parking Structures & Lots

- Carry your keys in your hands. You'll be able to get into your car faster, the keys may be used as a weapon if necessary.
- Avoid blind corners. Take wide turns so that you have room to react to what's ahead.
- Walk in the center of the aisles when safe to do so. You'll have more reaction time if someone leaps out from behind a car.
- Walk with confidence. Criminals can often sense when you feel vulnerable, and this may entice them.
- Check your backseats before getting into your car.
- Park in well-lit, well-traveled areas of the parking structure or lot.
- Use a "club" and/or car alarm. They make theft more difficult for the criminal, and less enticing.

- Do not keep valuables in your car. If you must, keep them in the trunk where they are out of sight. If you have an internal trunk lock, use it.
- Keep track of your mileage whenever using stack parking.
- Take your pullout/removable face stereo with you. Do not put it under the seats, in the glove compartment, or in the trunk, as this is always the first place criminals check.
- Call for a CSO Escort (794-WALK).

Other Tips

- Know your limit for alcohol. You are more vulnerable when you don't have full use of your senses.
- Always report any suspicious activity to the Police. 911 for emergencies and 825-1491 for non-emergencies.
- Be aware of your surroundings when using ATMs (Automated Teller Machines). Keep track of who is behind you.
- When working-out at the John Wooden Center, bring a quarter to use the lockers. Use the lockers and don't bring anything you can't keep with you.
- When running alone in the evenings, do not wear a Walkman, as this eliminates hearing as a defense mechanism. Try to run with a friend in the evenings, or have them watch you as you run. Keep your keys in your hand while running, as they can be used as a weapon if necessary.
- Learn to use and carry mace or pepper spray. Take a self-defense workshop. Call the Women's Resource Center (825-3945) for more information.
- Always let someone know where you'll be going and when you can be expected to return.
- Purchase and use a good lock and helmet for your bike and motorcycle.
- Register your bike at the Police Station.