

# CRIMESTOPPERS SAFETY TIPS

## Street Robbery: What the Offender Usually Looks For

Street robbers search for victims who appear to have valuables, as well as those who appear to be the most vulnerable. Offenders also look for victims who seem unaware of their immediate surroundings. Pedestrians who look lost, are using a cell phone, are rummaging through their bags or listening to MP3 players might appear less alert and more vulnerable to street robbers than other people. Street robberies also tend to be more opportunistic and occur in more open and less predictable environments.

(Exerpt from *Street Robbery* by K. Monk, J. Heinonen and J. Eck)

## How to Lessen the Likelihood of Being Victimized

- Be mindful of your surroundings and remember the address of your final destination.
- Remember where you parked your car and park near the entrance or exit, if possible.
- As you walk, look for landmarks, such as an open business that you may be able to retreat to, in case of emergency.
- Walk confidently, with a purpose.
- Travel in groups or pairs, whenever possible.
- Don't become distracted by cellular devices, cameras, MP3 players, etc.
- Stay in well-lit and populated areas.
- If consuming alcohol, know your limits, utilize a designated driver and ensure at least one member of your party remains sober to ensure everyone's safety.
- Be cautious when interacting with strangers.
- Never leave drinks, food or property unattended.
- Purses should be carried across the torso or on the shoulder, clutched tightly next to the torso.
- When traveling without a purse, place important items in the front pocket.

**\*\*If you observe anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, notify the police!**

