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Press release : 2004 : 10 : 27 : A Message from the USF St. Petersburg Public Safety Department

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A Message from the USF St. Petersburg Public Safety Department

October 27, 2004 9:10AM EST

As faculty, staff and students adjust to the end of daylight savings time, many will arrive to campus and leave in the dark. Campus Safety expects everyone to take an assertive approach to help protect yourself, your property, and all members of the campus community from most preventable incidents.

"If all campus members are aware of potential problems, we can work together to maintain a safe and secure campus," said John Spicuglia, crime prevention and special events officer. Public Safety offers tips to keep you safe both on campus and in the community:

Office Security

- Inspect your work area occasionally for potential hazards and security weaknesses.
- Lock all doors and windows when leaving.
- Report security or safety defects to University Police.
- Keep personal property in a locked desk or cabinet at all times.
- Maintain a current inventory of all valuable personal and campus property. Include make, model, size, color serial number and USF number.
- Consider etching your driver's license number in personal items of value.

Personal Safety

Trusting your instincts and avoiding dangerous situations can prevent many problems.

At Work

- Observe the parking lot upon your arrival. If you see anything or anyone suspicious, call the campus police from a safe location.
- Try to park on campus, in a well-lit area, close to your workplace.
- Do not leave items of value in view.
- Secure your vehicle at all times.
- When approaching your office, look for anything out of the ordinary.
- If the door is damaged do not enter. Call the campus police department from a safe location.
- If your normally locked door is unlocked, do not enter. Call the campus police from a safe location.
- Keep office doors locked when vacant, when working alone on weekends, or after normal hours.
- Let the campus police department know when you are working alone.
- Ask for an escort to your vehicle when leaving alone after normal business hours.

On the Road

- Carry a cellular phone for safety.
- Keep your car fueled and in good working order at all times.
- Keep your doors locked when on the road.
- When stopping behind other cars, leave enough room to go around if threatened.
- Keep valuables out of site, in the trunk or on the floor.
- Plan your trip ahead of time and let someone know where you are going.

On Public Transportation

- Always use highly visible and well lighted bus stops.
- Have the correct change ready.
- Do not carry or display items of value.
- Sit up front near the driver.
- Do not place your purse or briefcase on the floor.
- Do not fall asleep.
- Know your stop.

In Elevators

- Trust your intuition. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable you may choose not to get on, or to leave the elevator.
- Try to stand near the controls.
- Do not push the stop button if frightened, this may halt the elevator between floors.
- Push the buttons for all floors; this will open the door sooner.
- Most elevators have an emergency phone that can be used to summon assistance.

At Home

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when just working in the yard.
- Install a peep hole in your door.
- Keep blinds and drapes closed.
- Install motion detector type lights.
- Keep shrubs trimmed to avoid creating a hiding place.
- Change locks in new homes or whenever you lose a key.

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