



Fact Sheet

2005

Student Health Services Texas A&M University

Personal Safety

Identity Theft- Why Is It a Problem?

- ID theft occurs when an individual steals personal information and uses it fraudulently
- Thieves can obtain credit cards, access financial accounts, or create a false ID by using social security numbers and driver's license numbers.
- Identity thieves may pose as bank representatives and/or government officials
- Don't give information over the phone
- Shred all documents containing personal information
- Don't use any personal information as a password/ PIN number
- Don't put your credit card number on the Internet, unless it is a secure site
- Keep a list of account numbers (bank and credit cards) and customer service phone numbers
- File a report with the police
- Call the fraud departments of the major credit reporting agencies
- Cancel credit cards, checking, and savings accounts
- Report your missing driver's license to the [department of motor vehicles](#)

Personal Safety

- Stay alert - Be aware of your surroundings
- Communicate confidence - Stand tall and make eye contact
- Trust your instincts - Leave if you feel uncomfortable
- Have your car or house keys in your hand with the appropriate key ready
- There is safety in numbers
- Stay on well traveled and lighted streets
- Carry change for a phone call
- Keep your hands free
- Carry your purse close to your body
- Never accept rides with strangers
- Use ATMs in the daylight
- Don't leave personal belongings unattended

Resistance

- Different approaches work on different people
- Use your imagination to delay the attack
- Look for a chance to escape
- Talk the attacker out of assaulting you
- Remain calm and show little fear

Safety in the Home

- Doors - use locks, deadbolt, viewer
- Ask for identification from any repair person
- Don't give personal information to solicitors
- Use your initials in the phone book and on the mailbox
- When you move in, change the locks
- On answering machines, don't tell callers you're not home

Before You Leave Your Home

- Leave exterior lights on
- Leave a radio and/ or light on
- Let a friend or relative know your plans
- Don't leave notes on your door
- If you return home and suspect forced entry-DON'T GO IN! Call the police!

Always Report the Following to the Authorities:

- A tense situation that's about to blow up
- An accident, a fire, or injured person
- Anything suspicious-recently broken windows, someone looking into windows of vehicles, someone hanging around the dorm or campus building with no clear purpose, anyone being forced into a vehicle

When on campus, dial 9-911 to reach emergency personnel.

When off campus, dial 911.

For more information, contact [University Police Department](#) at 845-2345.
For Corps escort when walking on campus at night, call 845-6789.