

# Help us to combat crime!

## Useful information

- SAPS hints on the internet for combating crime - [http://www.saps.gov.za/crime\\_prevention/safety\\_tips/safety\\_tips\\_index.htm](http://www.saps.gov.za/crime_prevention/safety_tips/safety_tips_index.htm)

## General hints

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## What must I do during an attack?

If you are being attacked, be realistic about your ability to defend yourself. Resistance against your assailant may result in more severe injuries and even death. Passiveness may be your only chance if your life is in danger. Remember, your first priority is to try to escape.  
Try talking yourself out of it.  
Shout and try to run to a place where there are people.  
If all attempts fail, try to fight back or to subject yourself.  
If you decide to fight, you must know where to attack. Try to hit the most sensitive places with all your strength. The most efficient action is to poke your fingers hard into the assailant's eye sockets, to throw some or other chemical substance in his face or to poke a pencil or pen in his eye socket.  
Using both hands, hit him hard on both ears at the same time.  
Wait until it is safe and try to get away as soon as possible after the attack.  
Look for any distinguishing marks, what the assailant is wearing, scars, a vehicle registration number etc., and report the incident as soon as possible to the Department of Protection Services at extension 2211.

## How can I try to prevent an attack?

Do not open the door for a stranger.  
If someone is following you, make sure that he knows you are aware of him. That will deter him.

IF YOU:

are waiting for transport at night, wait in a well-lit area and with your back against a wall. Be careful of people who move so close to you that it makes you uncomfortable. Look strong and irritated and do not hesitate to open your mouth.

- are driving home at night, regularly change your route.

Never walk with both arms full of packages – you can become an easy target.  
Don't accept a ride from a stranger.  
Avoid dark, poorly lit areas and rather travel in a group.  
Don't walk alone on campus after-hours. Walk in a group.  
Avoid shortcuts home, especially across open fields or through bushy areas.

## How can I better safeguard my vehicle?

Before leaving your car, close all the windows and lock the doors. The smallest opening makes it easy for a thief to open the car.  
Remove all the ignition keys when you leave the car, even if it is in your own garage.  
Don't make it easier for the thief by leaving documents or valuable articles in your car. If you cannot take it with you, lock it in the boot of your car. Don't leave your staff or student card in the vehicle either, as this will only make theft easier.  
Install an immobiliser, a gear lock or an alarm.  
Immediately report suspicious persons or vehicles to the Department of Protection Services at extension 2211.

## How can I prevent being hijacked?

Ensure that your car's doors are always locked.  
Be on the lookout for suspicious persons when you are stopping at a traffic sign.  
Make sure that you are not being followed.  
Be on the lookout for suspicious persons before you leave or approach your vehicle.  
Never travel alone at night or stop at deserted places, especially not if you are a woman.

At night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.  
Do not pick up hitchhikers – they might just drop *you* off!  
Immediately report suspicious persons or vehicles to the Department of Protection Services (extension 2211).

### **How can I assist in finding my lost or stolen possessions?**

The serial number of valuable articles such as radios, watches, bicycles, electrical appliances, tools etc. must be recorded and stored in a safe place. If any of these goods should get lost or stolen, the serial number may help with the finding and identification of the item.

### **What about safety in the elevator?**

Have a glance at the inside of the elevator before stepping inside. If you feel uncertain about someone in the elevator, rather wait for the next one.  
A lady who is alone in the elevator must always stand near the control buttons, so that she can press all the buttons if she is being attacked.  
If someone suspicious gets in with you, rather leave the elevator before the door closes.  
Report any suspicious persons immediately to Protection Services at extension 2211

### **How can I make outside doors safe?**

Never open your outside door to unidentified persons. Identify all visitors before giving them access. Make sure that they have good motives.  
If the visitor is a stranger, request identification. If he cannot give it, refuse to open the door.  
It is wise to install a safety gate or safety chain, as it offers excellent protection.

### **If I have a valuable item, how can I make it safe?**

The Department of Protection Services has a considerable number of double-lock safes which are available free of charge to anyone with a valuable item.  
You may report to the Department of Protection Services, who will assign one safe key to you. You and the control officer will then respectively use your key and the master key to store the item.  
It is impossible to open the safe without both these keys.  
The Department of Protection Services is at your service 24 hours a day and you may call on them at any time.

### **Why may I not drink and drive? After all, I am in full control of my senses?**

Alcohol affects your senses. It brings you under the false impression that you can do things better.  
Alcohol affects your brain functions, like your judgement, vision, co-ordination and balance.  
Alcohol reduces your inhibitions, leaving you less cautious and more inclined to take risks. The result may be increased speed, reduced politeness and dangerous stunts.  
Too much alcohol causes impaired vision (your ability to see something in the road in time is reduced), double vision (your ability to estimate distance is reduced) tunnel vision (your ability to spot objects or movement outside your direct line of vision is impaired), impaired night vision (your ability to see small details at a distance is affected) and your pupils become dilated (your ability to adapt your vision from dark to light is reduced).

### **What do I do if my vehicle breaks down?**

Switch on the hazard lights – both in the day and in the night.  
Open your boot and engine hood.  
Find out if you can fix the fault yourself, for example loose battery cables.  
Do not start walking unless it is absolutely necessary.  
Remove all visible jewellery or valuable items and place it in the boot.  
Hide behind bushes or in the grass until someone who looks trustworthy enough arrives.  
If suspicious-looking people stop to offer assistance, tell them that someone has already stopped and that help is on its way.  
If you have no other choice but to accept a ride with a stranger, leave a note in your car in which you write down your name and the time at which your car broke down.  
In your note also give the registration number and model of the car which is giving you a ride

### **How can I protect myself at an autobank**

First observe your environment, before starting a transaction.  
If possible, take someone with you if you are going to deposit or withdraw money, particularly at night.  
Reduce the time at the autobank by having your card ready when you arrive at the machine.  
If you become aware of anything suspicious while you are at the autobank, press cancel and immediately leave the autobank.  
Use your body as a screen when entering your pin.  
Never give your pin to anyone.  
Never count your money at the autobank; go to a safe place for that.  
Do not always use the same autobank and regularly change your banking routine.  
Make sure that you get back your own card.  
If your card is held back by the machine, keep the autobank in view and immediately contact the toll-free number which is printed on the autobank.  
Keep a list of emergency numbers at hand.  
Be prepared.  
Ignore helpful people who are standing around when your card is being held back or when other problems are experienced.  
Immediately report suspicious persons or vehicles.