

YOU are responsible for your own security! These tips will not guarantee that you will not become a victim of crime. You may be confronted by different types of criminals. Either way, these tips may help to reduce your risk of being a victim. There are all types of criminals...those that want your money or valuables with minimal risk of being apprehended and those that will not hesitate in causing fear or serious injury to you, their victim. One thing is certain...criminals normally choose the easiest targets.

Remember, your safety is always paramount!

PERSONAL SECURITY!

- When going to an unfamiliar location for the first time, familiarize yourself with the location, (i.e. location of phones, emergency call boxes, entrances, exits, etc.).
- When leaving or arriving at a location, be aware of your surroundings. Look for suspicious things or people.
- Look confident. If you look strong and alert, your body language could deter an assailant. A sign of weakness could invite a criminal to focus their attention on you.
- Do not overload yourself with cargo, groceries, or bags. This may limit your mobility and awareness.
- When going to your car, have your keys ready. This limits needless fumbling which can divide your attention. Once inside your vehicle, immediately lock your doors and start your engine.
- Don't depend on vehicle remotes to always work...batteries can go bad. Replace your remote batteries when you replace your smoke detector batteries (every six months).
- There is usually increased safety in numbers. Walk with a spouse, partner or friends.

- If you feel you have been or are being followed, look for a well-lit area with a phone and lots of people. Find a police officer or go to a police sub-station. Do not go directly home, as this will show the criminal where you live.
- If a criminal demands your property, DO NOT FIGHT. Property can be replaced, your LIFE CANNOT.
- If you are placed in a situation where you are in danger, yell "FIRE", not "help", yelling "FIRE" is recommended as it tends to gain more attention.
- If you have a cellular phone, carry it turned on and accessible. Know how to use it. Remember, unlike conventional phones, if you dial 911, the dispatcher will not know your location unless you give it.

IN YOUR VEHICLE!

- Never leave anything in a vehicle you are not willing to part with.
- Keep your vehicle doors locked and secure. Never roll down your windows to strangers. When at intersections, stopped for traffic signals, do not engage or open your vehicle doors or windows to any pedestrians.
- Lock your vehicle, take your keys and never leave a second set in your vehicle. Even the best vehicle security systems can be defeated.
- Take all valuables with you; if you feel you have to leave valuables behind...Hide them. Do not leave them in plain view, including phone chargers, radar detectors, coins, empty bags, backpacks, CD's etc.

- If you are going to leave a purse or briefcase in the trunk, do this at another location before reaching your destination.
- Combine or layer your vehicle security. Install an alarm and a steering wheel lock, not just one or the other.
- Park in well-lit or heavily-trafficked areas.
- If you see a person that appears to be watching vehicles or appears suspicious to you, report it to police.
- Keep personal information private! Do not place decals on your vehicle indicating any information about you or your family.

ALWAYS REMEMBER!

- When reporting a crime or incident, be clear to the dispatcher concerning the location, offender description, vehicles and license plate numbers and include whether weapons are involved or if EMS is needed.
- If you have children, know where they are at all times. When entering your parked vehicle with them, secure them quickly. Do not spend unnecessary time outside of your vehicle.
- Report ALL suspicious activity.
- If you become a victim, report the incident or crime as quickly as possible so the police can take action. If you do not report criminal activity, police will not know crime is occurring in a specific area.



From the Chief

The Windcrest Police Department serves and protects the City of Windcrest, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year!

I am very proud to lead the Windcrest Police Department and its officers in providing unsurpassed customer service in assuring a safe and secure environment for the citizens, visitors and businesses of Windcrest, Texas. As Police Officers, it is our responsibility to preserve the peace, protect life and property, and enforce federal, state and local laws.



The Windcrest Police Department prides itself on a low crime rate and quick response times. We are a proactive department committed to preventing crime versus responding to it! This philosophy is strengthened by community involvement and zero tolerance for criminal activity. You must be responsible for your own safety and that of your family. Police officers are busy and may not always be close by. You can develop a crime prevention plan to keep you safe. Remember...you have a choice!

This pamphlet is designed to provide crime prevention tips and information to our citizens and visitors about how to lower their risks of becoming a victim of crime. You can choose not to be a victim. Do you have a Plan? Are you Ready? Remember...your safety is always paramount!

Sincerely,

A. O. "Al" Ballew

Chief of Police

Helpful Contacts

Windcrest Police Dispatch
(Non-Emergency).....210-655-2666

City of Windcrest Administration.....210-655-0022

City of Windcrest Animal Control.....210-655-2666

Crime Stoppers.....210-224-STOP

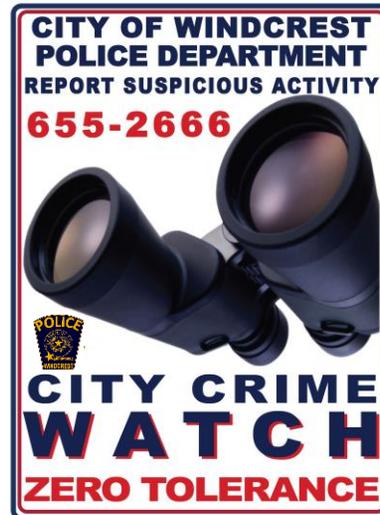
Battered Women's Shelter Hotline...210-733-8810

Rape Crisis Center 24 hr Hotline.....210-349-7273

Adult & Child Protective Services....800-252-5400

Poison Control.....800-222-1222

EMERGENCY.....911



**Windcrest Police and the Community
"Partners in Crime Prevention"**

**Windcrest Police Department
8601 Midcrown Dr.
Windcrest, Texas 78239**

210-655-2666

Windcrest Police Department



Personal Safety

Have a Plan!

