

# Crime Triangle



The Crime Triangle identifies three factors that create a criminal offense.

*Desire* of a criminal to commit a crime;  
*Target* of the criminal's desire; and the  
*Opportunity* for the crime to be committed.

You can break up the Crime Triangle by not giving the criminal the **Opportunity**. Stay alert and use good judgment by knowing whom and what is around you at all times. You can avoid becoming an easy target.

## ***Remember!***

*Awareness is the key to your safety.*

**Emergency 9-1-1**  
**Police Non-Emergency**  
**713-884-3131**

*For General Information, Contact  
Your Local Police Station  
(Numbers Provided Below)*

*or*

*Contact the  
Office of Community Affairs at  
713-308-3200*

*For more information, visit  
[www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)*

**PERSONAL  
SAFETY**

***Awareness***  
***the Key to***  
***your Safety***



***Keep* Houston**  
**SAFE**



*The Houston Police Department wants you to be safe! By practicing these personal safety tips, you will reduce the opportunities criminals look for when targeting a crime victim.*

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## Safety at Home

- Lock your doors and windows when you are at home. Criminals look for houses with the easiest entry.
- Install a peephole with a 190-degree viewing angle so that you can verify who is on the other side of your door.
- Before opening an exterior door to your home, know who is at the door and do not open the door to an unexpected visitor. This includes company employees and other solicitors.
- Exterior lighting provides additional protection from intruders. Inexpensive timers or photoelectric cells will automatically turn lights on and off at dusk and dawn.

## Street Sense

- Walk with confidence. Communicate the message that you are calm, confident, know where you are going, and know what is going on around you.
- Safety in numbers. Travel only in well-lighted streets and avoid short cuts through deserted areas.
- Try not to carry a purse. But if you must, carry it securely under your arm. Never wrap the purse strap around your arm or enter a tug-of-war with a thief trying to grab your purse. You could be seriously injured.
- Avoid displaying large amounts of cash or other tempting items, such as expensive jewelry, clothing, and wraps.
- Avoid street solicitors trying to sell you something at a bargain price. If it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.

## Vehicle Safety

- Park in well-lighted areas so you can see your car and its surroundings from a distance.
- Have your car keys ready, look around and under your car and observe other vehicles parked nearby for suspicious persons before approaching.
- Glance into the backseat and at the floorboards of your car before entering to check for anyone hiding inside.
- If you think someone is following you, do not go home. Drive to the nearest police station, fire station, open gas station, or

well-lighted place where there are people that can help you.

- If you have car problems, raise the hood and tie a white cloth to the door handle to signal for help. Get back into the car and keep the doors and windows locked. If someone stops, ask them to call for help. Do not accept rides from anyone.

## Public Elevators

- If you are worried about someone who is waiting for the elevator with you, pretend you forgot something and do not get on.
- Look inside before getting on to ensure that no one appears suspicious, if so do not get on.
- Once inside, stand near the controls and familiarize yourself with the emergency buttons.
- Get off if someone suspicious enters.
- If you are attacked, push the alarm and as many floor buttons as possible.

## Work Safety

- Never give telephone numbers or addresses of fellow coworkers to anyone without their permission.
- Use discretion in revealing personal plans to people at work.