

## Did You Know?

Many of the robberies are of individual victims and are committed by one or more male robbers.

A lot of these robberies take place on the way to and from your car, especially in shopping center and apartment parking lots.

The use of a cellular phone or headsets, whether driving or walking, is a distraction which can increase your likelihood of being robbed.

Robbery is a crime of violence that threatens the safety and quality of life of a community.

Robbery is a crime of opportunity that can be reduced through awareness and prevention.

Robbers are serial criminals and will continue to prey on victims until arrested.

One of the most important robbery reduction strategies is to arrest the criminal.

Failure to report a robbery, not prosecuting the criminal if you are a victim, not providing information to police or Crime Stoppers about robbers ensures continued victimization.

**Crime Stoppers pays a cash reward up to \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and charging of any person involved in committing a felony crime.**

Crime Stoppers can be contacted at  
713-222-TIPS (8477) or  
[www.crime-stoppers.org](http://www.crime-stoppers.org).

## Houston Police Stations

Central	713-247-4400
Clear Lake	281-218-3800
Eastside	713-928-4600
Fondren	713-773-7900
Kingwood	281-913-4500
North	281-405-5300
Northeast	713-635-0200
Northwest	713-744-0900
South Central	832-394-0200
Southeast	713-731-5000
Southwest	713-314-3900
Special Ops.	832-394-0000
Westside	281-584-4700

***For all emergencies, call 9-1-1***

*For more information,  
go to [www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)  
or contact the Robbery Division at  
713-308-0700*

Houston Police Department  
Public Affairs Division  
Community Services Unit  
1200 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, TX 77002  
713-308-3200

# ROBBERY PREVENTION

*Be Observant  
Be on Guard  
Be Safe*



**Harold L. Hurtt**  
Chief of Police

*A robbery is one of the most serious and potentially dangerous crimes committed in the United States today. A robber commits a holdup because he or she believes that their profit will be worth the risk. By decreasing the possible profit and increasing the risk of apprehension, potential victims can reduce their chance of becoming a target.*

## Prevention At Home

All doors leading to the outside should have dead-bolt locks.

Lock your doors and windows when you are at home.

Before opening an exterior door, make sure you know the identity of the person at your door before allowing admission.

Do not open the door to an unexpected visitor. This includes company employees and other solicitors.

Install a peephole with a 190-degree viewing angle so that you can verify who is on the other side of your door.

Do not advertise that you live alone.

Make sure exterior lighting is on at night. Inexpensive timers or photoelectric cells will automatically turn lights on and off at dusk and dawn.

Write down the license plate number of any suspicious vehicles and call the police if concerned.

## Reduce Your Chance of Being Carjacked

Always park in a well-lighted area so you can see your car and its surroundings from a distance.

Have your car keys ready as you approach your vehicle and look under, around, and inside your car for persons who may be hiding. If safe, enter and immediately lock all doors.

Stay alert. Don't drive on autopilot. Watch your mirrors for any car that might be following.

If you think someone is following you, do not go home. Drive to the nearest police, fire, or gas station, or well-lighted area where there are people that can help.

While stopped in traffic, leave enough room between your car and the one in front of you so you can maneuver and escape if necessary.

Keep an alert eye out for any suspicious characters at intersections.

## Walk Alertly and Confidently

Try not to walk alone. It's a lot safer if you walk with at least one other person.

Be alert, walk with your head up and do not let your mind wander. Frequently scan your surroundings, that includes behind you.

When walking at night, consider a taxi cab even for short trips.

Trust your instincts, avoid uncomfortable situations. It's better to be safe than sorry.

Be observant for groups of males/females driving or just hanging around.

Do not take shortcuts through unlit, sparsely traveled paths such as trails, stairwells or alleys.

## Be Smart About Cash

Carry only the amount of cash that you expect to use. If cash is needed use ATM or debit cards.

Avoid outdoor ATM's, particularly at night and those in secluded areas inside.

Be alert at banks or check cashing businesses. Carrying cash marks you as a target.

Avoid showing your wallet. Keep needed cash, ID, and credit cards in an accessible pocket.

Do not wear expensive or expensive looking jewelry and carry as little cash as possible. Leave valuable items at home if not needed.

## What To Do During a Robbery

Remain calm. DO NOT resist. Try not to be a hero. Take no action that would jeopardize your safety.

Follow the robber's directions, but do not volunteer more than asked for.

If you have to move or reach, tell the robber what you are going to do and why. Assure the robber that you will cooperate.

Make mental notes of:

- The robber's race, age, height, sex, clothing, complexion, hair, eye color, etc.
- Anything unusual about the robber such as scars or tattoos.
- The number of accomplices and how they left the scene, direction of travel, type and color of vehicle. Get the license number if you can safely do so.
- Any conversations the suspects may have with one another.
- What the suspect's weapon looked like so you can describe it later.
- Also, try to remember what the suspect touches so that fingerprints may be lifted.

## After the Robbery

Go to a safe location close to the robbery scene and call the police, **9-1-1**, immediately.

Ask all witnesses to remain until the officers arrive. If a witness must leave, obtain his/her name, address, and telephone number.

Witnesses should write or remember their account of the suspects and their actions. Do not discuss the robbery or compare notes about the robber's appearance with anyone.

Protect the crime scene. Try not to touch anything.