Screaming or using a personal alarm to attract attention and help from nearby.
- Physically resisting and fighting off the assailant.
- Keep assessing the situation as it unfolds and never give up.
- If the first strategy you choose does not work, try another and don’t give up on your strategy.

**REPORTING CRIME**

- Be alert and observant wherever you are.
- Learn to recognize signs of criminal behavior.
- Report all crimes to the LAPD even if you do not think it was a significant incident.
- Crime cannot be controlled or prevented if they are not reported.
- Obtain a good description of the assailant. Carefully remember as much as you can about a suspect’s appearance and behavior.
- If possible, memorize details of the assailant’s identity such as age, height, weight, eye, and hair color.
- Look for distinguishable characteristics such as scars, tattoos, hairstyle, or other prominent features.
- If a vehicle is used in a crime, note the make, model, color, and license number.
- Report crimes immediately. The sooner a crime is reported, the more likely the LAPD will collect important evidence and apprehend the offender.

**IF YOU ARE ATTACKED**

- Be physically and psychologically prepared to defend yourself.
- Realize that every confrontation is different, but your most effective weapon is your own judgement.
- Prepare an inventory of your personal skills and think about how you usually respond during a confrontation.
- When faced with danger, trust yourself. Only you can decide how you will respond to a given situation.
- Stay as calm as possible. Think rationally without panic.
- Observe as much as you can about the identity, clothing and behavior of the assailant. This information will be important and useful for the police investigation.
- Evaluate the situation, the options available to you, and find a way to escape.
- The following strategies may be effective in confrontations:
  - Nonresistance
  - Negotiating
  - Stalling for time
  - Distracting or diverting the assailant and fleeing

**In Case of Emergency Dial 911**

For non-emergencies, you may contact the Los Angeles Police Department at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired.

You may also obtain additional information on this subject, along with additional crime prevention tips, by visiting the Los Angeles Police Department’s Web site at www.lapdonline.org and clicking on “Prevent Crime.”

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or activity, please contact your local police station or the LAPD crime hotline at 1-877-LAWFULL (1-877-529-3855).
Los Angeles is a cosmopolitan city, which is comprised of many people with diverse ethnic backgrounds and life-styles. While the majority of these individuals are law abiding, there are still some individuals who participate in criminal behavior. Determining exactly who is a criminal is difficult in nature. However, criminals often plan their crimes and look for an optimal opportunity with the easiest of victims. One must always be prepared to protect themselves and their residences.

Your best defense is a personal security plan aimed at reducing the opportunity for criminals to target you. The Los Angeles Police Department encourages you to practice the following crime prevention measures to increase your personal safety.

**AT HOME**

- Always change the locks when you move into a new residence.
- Invest wisely. Install and use quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Utilize sturdy metal and/or solid wood doors for all entries of your home.
- Properly secure all sliding glass doors and windows. If a window is left open for ventilation, keep the opening small in order to prevent entry.
- Trim shrubs around doors, windows, and entryways so crooks don’t have a place to hide.
- Light the outside of your home to discourage prowling or loitering. Use floodlights, motion detectors, or exterior lights for all entryways, pathways, stairwells, laundry, trash, and parking areas.
- Consider obtaining a watchdog for additional protection.
- Install a peephole in your front door.
- Never indicate you are home alone and never open the door to a stranger.

- If someone is at your door requesting for help or asking to use your telephone, offer to make the phone call yourself while the stranger waits outside.
- Place emergency telephone numbers (e.g., Police Department, Fire Department, Gas Company, Water/Power) by your phone.
- If you are going to be on vacation, lock all deadbolts, leave lights on timers, stop newspapers, and have mail held at your local post office or collected by a trusted neighbor.
- If a door or window has been forced open or broken while you have been out, do not enter your home because a burglar may be inside. Call 911 from your neighbor’s phone/personal cell phone and advise the LAPD that you will wait at your neighbor’s house.

**WHILE YOU ARE OUT**

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and observe people/activities around you.
- Look confident and purposeful when you walk and avoid walking alone if possible.
- Never accept a ride from strangers.
- Always remove your keys and lock your car doors and windows. If a window is left open for ventilation, keep the opening small in order to prevent entry.
- T rim shrubs around doors, windows, and entryways so crooks don’t have a place to hide.
- Light the outside of your home to discourage prowling or loitering. Use floodlights, motion detectors, or exterior lights for all entryways, pathways, stairwells, laundry, trash, and parking areas.
- Consider obtaining a watchdog for additional protection.
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