



Personal Safety

The odds of you being victimized by crime while in a public place are low. However, your personal safety is at risk anytime you go out. For this reason, you must protect yourself. Remember, criminals often plan crimes and look for the right opportunity with the easiest victim. Your best defense is to plan ahead. Being safe doesn't require changing your lifestyle, personality, wardrobe or to stop going out. The Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department provides the following crime prevention measures to increase your personal safety and security.

Personal Safety Tips:

At Home:

- Have your key in hand when approaching the entryway.
- Wait outside if anything looks unusual or suspicious (i.e. open door or broken window)
- Give a spare key to a trusted neighbor.
- Do not have personal identification on key ring.
- Change locks if you lose your house key.

Walking:

- Avoid walking alone. Be confident & walk with purpose.
- Choose busy, well-lit streets and avoid isolated areas.
- Walk facing traffic to see approaching cars.
- Earphones make you less able to sense approaching danger.
- Keep valuables in an inside pocket and hold your purse under your arms so they are harder to snatch.

Driving:

- Keep your vehicle in good running order.
- Plan your route in advance.
- Keep windows closed & doors locked.
- Carpooling is a safer alternative to driving alone.
- Don't stop if another driver tries to force you off the road.

Parking:

- Choose well-lit parking areas.
- Keep valuables and packages out of view if possible, place them in your trunk.
- Always remove the keys and lock the doors when exiting your vehicle.
- Be alert to your surrounding area.

Returning to your vehicle:

- Have your keys ready before getting to your car.
- Be aware of occupied cars around you.
- If you carry packages, always keep one hand free.
- Check inside and around your car before unlocking door.

Automated Teller Machines (ATM's):

- Memorize your PIN number.
- Have everything ready before arriving.
- Be aware of people loitering and sitting in parked cars who may be watching customers transact business.
- Never use an ATM after dark.

At Work:

- Get involved with improving workplace security.
- Walk to and from the parking areas with other people.
- Avoid using isolated and deserted stairways