

## What Should I Do?

### IF YOU ARE CONFRONTED:

Do whatever you can to protect yourself. It is not worth a fight to keep property. It may seem like a good idea to tell a robber that you have no money, but this technique may actually backfire. It is safer to give up a few dollars. Carry a little money separate from your other funds in an accessible place.

If someone demands your property and displays or implies that they have a weapon, don't resist. You have a greater chance of getting hurt if you do, and usually the robber will get your property anyway. If someone tries to grab you, make a scene. Scream, kick, fight . . . do what you can to get away and attract attention.

### How do I report these incidents?

- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Explain what happened.
- To report a crime that is not an emergency:

non-emergency # 406-758-5610.

## CONTACT US

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

**Flathead County Sheriff's Office  
Community Resource Unit  
406.758.5602**

Or

Visit our website at [www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)

- Programs and Services
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
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# Flathead County Sheriff's Office

## Personal Safety

### How to Protect Yourself from Crime



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## Preventing Theft

**MINIMIZE WHAT CAN BE LOST:** Carry only what you need, small amounts of cash, and only the credit cards you plan to use. Try not to carry anything that is irreplaceable or of sentimental value. If you **MUST** carry a lot of cash or valuables, store them in a pocket or pouch inside your jacket. Don't display cash, jewelry, or valuables unnecessarily.

**PURSES/BAGS:** Should be closed, carried in front of the body with an arm held loosely across it. Many people carry a bag out of habit, but if you don't really need it, travel without one.

**PLAN AHEAD:** Think about where you are going and plan your route before you leave. What time of day is it? Are you walking through an uninhabited or badly lit area? If you see trouble, can you cross the street or go into a nearby store? If you are not familiar with the area, did you take directions with you? Carry cash with you to avoid using ATMs at night.

## Safety while walking

**WALK WITH PURPOSE:** Project an assertive image that conveys you know where you are going (even if you are lost - pretend).

**AVOID ISOLATION:** Avoid uninhabited parks, parking lots, garages and alleyways; stick to well-lit, high-traffic areas.

**KEEP A DISTANCE:** Don't let people get too close, even if they appear to have a reason, such as asking for the time.

**DRESS SO YOU CAN MOVE WITH EASE:** Consider wearing clothing and shoes you can move quickly in.

**PACK LIGHT:** Take only what you need, overloading yourself can make you appear vulnerable.

**TALKING ON THE PHONE:** If you talk on the phone while walking, don't get lost in conversation. Pay attention to traffic, people around you and where you are going.

**STAY ALERT!** Also keep in mind the information you may be inadvertently giving out when talking on your phone. Others can hear your conversation.



## What Thieves Look For...

**EASY PICKINGS:** Items left in grocery carts, dressing rooms or desks and wallets protruding from pockets only take seconds to grab.

**CROWDS:** The noise and confusion of crowds help conceal crime. Be especially vigilant anywhere that is busy or crowded. It is best to keep your wallet in a front pocket rather than back.

**DISTRACTION:** When you are distracted you are less able to remember identifying characteristics of a thief and are often even unaware a theft has occurred until much later. Thieves will sometimes cause a distraction, (i.e. bumping into you) or observe one, (i.e. talking on your cellphone) to steal a wallet or purse.

If you're interested in a Personal Safety Presentation for your group please call the Sheriff's Community Resource Unit at 406.758.5602 or get more information at [www.flatheadcountysheriff.com](http://www.flatheadcountysheriff.com)