



# Security Awareness

## *Suggestions for Keeping You and Your Residence Safe*

### **PERSONAL SECURITY AWARENESS**

*There is no such thing as a failsafe security system. Even the most elaborate of security precautions (such as alarm systems, security guards, patrol cars, or electronic gates) are not guarantees against crime. You should always proceed as if such security systems do not exist. All systems are subject to mechanical malfunctions, tampering, human error, and personnel absenteeism. The Housing Department and Apartment and Residence Life make no express or implied warranties of security. The best safety measures you can take are the ones you yourself can perform as a matter of common sense and habit. Please carefully consider and follow these suggestions.*

### **PERSONAL SECURITY – WHILE INSIDE YOUR RESIDENCE**

1. Lock your doors and latch your windows – even while you are inside.
2. When answering the door, first determine who is there by looking through a window or peephole. If the person is unknown, first talk with them without opening the door and do not open the door if you have concerns.
3. Do not lend your keys to anyone other than a registered additional occupant for your apartment. It is against University policy to allow another person to carry or use your University ID card.
4. Be careful to whom you give your phone number, apartment number, or address. Do not leave your name and phone number on your answering machine, voicemail, or web page.
5. Do not put markings on your key ring to identify your name, address, or phone number.
6. If you are concerned because you have lost your key or because someone whom you distrust has a key, contact the Housing Office to have your lock changed. You have a statutory right to have your locks changed, provided you pay the \$60 in advance.
7. Dial x23003 (817-272-3003) for emergencies.
8. Periodically check your door locks, window latches, and other security devices to be sure they are working properly.
9. Immediately report to Facilities Management any needed repairs of locks, latches, doors, windows, smoke detectors, and alarm systems, if any. You can contact the Office of Facilities Management by calling 817-272-2220.
10. Immediately report to Facilities Management any malfunction of other safety devices outside your dwelling unit such as broken, burned out lights in stairwells and parking lots, blocked passageways, broken railings, etc.
11. Close curtains, blinds and window shades at night.
12. Mark or engrave identification on valuable personal possessions.

### **PERSONAL SECURITY – WHILE OUTSIDE YOUR RESIDENCE**

1. Lock your doors while you are away from your residence.
2. Leave a radio or TV playing very softly while you are gone.
3. Close and latch your windows when you are gone, particularly while on vacation.
4. Tell your roommate or spouse where you are going and when you will be back.
5. When walking at night, walk with another person whenever possible. The UTA Police provide escort services after dark. You can reach UTA Police Non-emergency Dispatch at 817-272-3381.
6. Do not hide a key under the doormat or nearby flowerpot outside of your residence. (That is the first place a burglar will look.)
7. Use lamp timers when you go out in the evening or go away on vacation. They can be purchased at most hardware stores.
8. Let the Resident Assistant and your friends know if you are going to be gone for an extended time. Ask your neighbors to keep an eye on your apartment since the management cannot assume that responsibility.
9. While on vacation, make arrangements for your newspaper delivery to be stopped or have a friend pick up your newspaper on a daily basis.
10. While on vacation, make arrangements for your mail to be picked up by a friend or temporarily stopped by the post office.

## **PERSONAL SECURITY - WHILE ON CAMPUS**

1. Never leave your personal property unsecured or unattended.
2. Look around and be aware of your surroundings when you enter and exit a building.
3. Always tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return.
4. Be aware of your surroundings and think about how you would defend yourself. Develop a “game plan” for prevention.
5. Avoid walking alone, particularly after dark. If walking alone is unavoidable, be aware of your surroundings.
6. Walk with confidence and determination, holding your head up. Look behind and around you frequently.
7. Avoid shortcuts. The shortest route is not always the safest route.
8. Dress for mobility, particularly after dark.
9. Carry your personal belongings in a backpack or similar container what will enable your arms and hands to be free at all times.
10. Never allow someone to predict your route of travel. Whether you are driving, biking, walking, or jogging, frequently alter your route between campus and your residence.

## **PERSONAL SECURITY – WHILE USING YOUR CAR**

1. Lock your car doors while driving. Lock your car doors and roll up windows when leaving your car parked.
2. Whenever possible, do not leave any visible items in your car, such as CDs, cell phones, books, wrapped packages, briefcases, purses, etc.
3. Do not leave your keys in the car.
4. Carry your key ring in your hand while walking to your car – whether daylight or dark – and whether you are at home, school, work, or on vacation.
5. Whenever possible, park your car in an off-street parking area rather than on the street. If parking on the street, park close to a nearby streetlight.
6. Remember to check the back seat before getting into you car.
7. Do not stop at gas stations or automatic teller machines at night – or at any time of the day, if there is suspicion of danger.

## **PERSONAL SECURITY –WHILE USING THE INTERNET**

1. Do not post personal information such as your address, where you work, your class schedule, or phone number on internet networking sites.
2. Do not become of victim of identity theft. Only enter personal information on websites you know are secure.
3. Don’t reply to email or instant messages if you feel they are offensive or strange.
4. Report continued offensive or threatening message to the UTA Police.
5. Never give your passwords out for any reason and change your password frequently.

## **SEX OFFENDERS**

The Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act of 2000 states that states are required to develop procedures to obtain from the sex offenders information regarding institutions of higher education in that state where the person is employed, carries on a vocation, or is a student. The registration information is to be made available to law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction where the institutions of higher education are located beginning October 2002. In Texas, information regarding registered sex offenders may be obtained at <http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/> or by contacting the police department where the sex offender is registered.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Use the following link to view the UTA Campus Security Report

<http://www.uta.edu/police/campus%20security%20report.pdf>

Or visit the UTA Police Department web site at [www.uta.edu/police](http://www.uta.edu/police)