

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

What To Do During a Robbery

KEEP IT SHORT AND SMOOTH

- The longer the robber takes, the more nervous the robber becomes.

OBEY THE ROBBER'S ORDERS

- Robbers seldom hurt people who cooperate with them.
- Let the robber know that you intend to obey.
- If you are not sure of what the robber is telling you to do, ask.
- Keep calm and observe what the robber looks like and what he is wearing.

TELL THE ROBBER ABOUT ANY SURPRISES

- If you must reach for something or move in any way, tell the robber what to expect.
- If someone is in the back room or is expected in the store/office, tell the robber.

DON'T ARGUE WITH THE ROBBER

- Give him all the cash and merchandize.
- Once the robbery has started, it is too late for the robber to change his mind.

DON'T FIGHT THE ROBBER

- The money isn't worth the risk harm to you.
- Trying to attack an armed robber is foolhardy, not heroic. **DON'T CHASE OR FOLLOW THE ROBBER**
- To chase the robber is to invite violence.
- The police could mistake you for one of the robbers. **ACTIVATE THE SILENT ROBBER ALARM**
- If you can reach the silent alarm unnoticed, use it. Otherwise, wait and activate it as soon as the robber leaves.

DON'T CHASE OR FOLLOW THE ROBBER

- To chase the robber is to invite violence.
- The police could mistake you for one of the robbers.

Robbery Prevention

**Stevensville Police Department
102 Main St. Ste D
Stevensville, Mt 59870**



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 taxicab 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.

In Parking Lots

- Arrive and leave areas early to avoid being out after dark.
- DO NOT park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows that can prevent you from seeing if someone is sitting inside it.
- Park in a high visibility areas and check for lighting in case you leave when it is dark.
- Ask a security officer to escort you to your vehicle if you feel uncomfortable. Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the

parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions.

- Have your car keys ready to unlock your car door, look around and under your car and observe other vehicles parked nearby for suspicious persons before approaching.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside businesses. If you suspect that you are being followed, report it immediately to security or police.
- Glance into the backseat and at the floorboards of your car before entering to check for anyone hiding inside.
- DO NOT sit in a parked vehicle. If a stranger approaches your vehicle, sound your horn and don't let off. DO NOT open your car door or window for anyone. If someone is standing near your unoccupied vehicle, do not approach it.

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 when possible. Keep needed cash, ID, and credit cards in an accessible pocket.

Did You Know?

- Many of the robberies occur when you're alone 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 centers and apartment parking lots.
- The use of a cellular phone or headset, 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.
- 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.