

# FACT SHEET



## Street Robbery: BE “Streetwise” – NOT a victim

*The purpose of this fact sheet is to make you aware of the potential for street robbery and suggest some measures that can be taken to prevent that type of crime. In the event of a street robbery, this information will provide a course of action that will reduce the risk of personal injury and increase the potential of bringing the person(s) to justice.*

If you know how criminals who commit these crimes operate, it will help you avoid falling victim to them.

### Street robberies frequently occur:

- On the subway and at subway stations;
- Around bus stations;
- At cash machines;
- In parking lots and garages;
- In overcrowded areas, especially at rush hour.

Inform others where you are going and when you are expected to return.

Do not walk alone, especially after dark.

Follow the safest route possible. Avoid shortcuts and deserted areas. Try to keep to well lit, busy streets after dark. Walk on the side of the street where you can see clearly around you.

Avoid parks and green spaces after dark.

Walk with a purpose and be aware of your surroundings. Be alert when using MP3 players, as you might not hear trouble approaching.



Do not flash your cash, jewelry, music players, cell phones or other valuables. Keep their use discreet and put them away after use. Do not carry them or show them in an obvious manner, as you will make yourself an easy target.

Earphones for some MP3 players are a sign of the type of player that you may be carrying (white –usually an iPhone).

Be aware of chain-snatch thieves and keep your jewelry out of sight.

Do not tempt mobile phone thieves and be aware when making a call. Keep calls in public places as brief as possible, as the longer you talk, the more likely you are to be spotted by a potential thief.

Do not walk and text at the same time, you will be less aware of what is happening around you.

If being followed, cross the street and go directly to the nearest well lit populated area. If still being followed, go to an occupied home or stop a taxi and ask the driver to call the police. Never be afraid to draw attention to yourself.

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## If you are a victim of robbery:

Do not delay in calling the police, even if the robber has threatened you; hesitate only long enough to ensure your safety, then call immediately. The faster the police are able to respond, the better the chances the robber(s) will be arrested.

If you are robbed, the following information is very important to the police:

- Description of suspect(s);
- Direction of travel;
- Time of robbery;
- Whether or not the suspect(s) were armed;
- If a vehicle was used, a description of the vehicle, plate number and direction of travel.

Memorize suspect(s) physical and clothing descriptions, especially tattoos, scars and other prominent features.

When trying to determine age, height, weight and appearance, compare them to yourself or people that you know.

If a weapon is used, focus your attention on size, type and its colour.

Ask any witnesses to wait until the police arrive. Get their names and addresses if they cannot stay.

If you are the victim of a robbery, do not argue, fight or use any weapon. Robbers are unpredictable and resistance in any form may escalate the level of violence.

**Your safety is more important than any possession. Never chase or follow a robber.**

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For more information regarding this topic, please contact the Crime Prevention Officer at your local Police division, or:

**Toronto Police Service  
Divisional Policing Support Unit  
40 College Street  
Toronto, Ontario,  
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Tel: (416) 808-0133  
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## NOTES