

## Securing Your Residence

### Police, Fire and Ambulance Phone Numbers

**Emergency 911**

**Police (Non-Emergency) 614-645-4545**

**Fire Department 614-221-2132**

No matter what, you *can* become a victim of crime... thieves don't discriminate. Please do not give them the opportunity to relieve you of your belongings, especially in your vehicles. Remove all visible valuables such as CD's, cell phones, books, and even loose change. Also, make sure you hide cigarette lighter adapters and replace the cigarette lighter, as these are both signs of valuables somewhere in your vehicle. If you suspect illegal activity, please call the police at 645-4545. We also would appreciate you letting us know of any exterior lights that are out, especially in parking lots and the laundry room.

### **Safety at the Door**

Remember: *never open your door to a stranger*. Always demand to see proper identification from all sales people or utility workers. Make sure you look to see who it is at the door *before* opening it. While this is common sense, it is very easy to overlook.

### **Be Street-smart**

- Stand tall and walk confidently. Always look where you are going and be aware of your surroundings.
- Stick to well lighted and busy streets. Walk with friends and avoid shortcuts through dark alleys or deserted streets.
- If harassed from a car, walk quickly or run for help.
- Never hitchhike!
- Don't flash large amount of money. Only carry the money that you need for the day and always have change for a pay phone.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back, and call if you are going to be late.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your care. Don't risk fumbling around in your pocket or purse looking for your keys.
- Alter your routine. Change your daily patterns if possible. Take different routes to work or school. Even parking in different places can keep you from being victimized.

### **When Jogging or Biking**

- Go with a friend and take a familiar route.
- Try it without your headphones, as it is safer to remain alert of your surroundings.
- Don't jog or bike at night, and never alone.

### **If You Are a Victim of Crime**

- If someone attacks you, try not to panic. Look at the attacker carefully so you can give the police a good description. Try to remember the important characteristics like: age, race, build, clothing, height, weight, hair, eyes, and any unusual features.
- Report all crimes to the Columbus Police.
- If the attacker had a weapon and only wants money or possessions, don't fight back. Your money can be replaced...your life cannot.
- If a gang of people is harassing you, make your way to an open store, gas station, or any well-lit place with lots of people.
- Finally, NEVER GIVE MONEY TO THE HOMELESS. As charitable as it may sound, many times they will wait until you get your wallet or purse out, and they will attempt to rob you.