

Personal Safety

YOU and **ONLY YOU** are responsible for your safety. No one else can possibly ensure it. The SUNY Canton University Police Department works 24 hours a day in an attempt to provide a safe environment in which you may work and learn. However, our community is not immune to violence. It happens, but you can help prevent it. Here's how:

There are three basic concepts in personal safety. If you understand and utilize them you will be well on your way to a safe environment.

1. Stay alert at **ALL** times. Watch your surroundings, know who's in front of you and behind you. Don't be distracted as attackers often work in pairs and will try to draw your attention away from a threat.
2. Walk purposefully. Maintain an air of confidence. Stand tall and never give an impression of vulnerability. Attackers watch for the confused and helpless. Don't appear that way.
3. Trust your instincts. If a situation seems wrong, it is. Don't hesitate, get away.

Some everyday tips...

When at SUNY Canton:

- Don't walk the footbridges alone. This is a very secluded and high risk area.
- The University Police Department offers an escort service 24 hrs. a day. Please utilize it.

- Date sensibly. Know who you are seeing, and **GO TO A PUBLIC PLACE ON THE FIRST DATE.**
- Never accept rides from someone you do not know.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers, even if it is drastically cold. If you are concerned for the person's welfare contact the University Police.
- Do not drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking, ever.
- Do not drink excessively. Being drunk compromises everything in this pamphlet. **YOU CANNOT AFFORD THAT!**

When away from home:

- Travel with friends in well-lighted areas.
- Don't wear earphones—you cannot be aware of your surroundings if you cannot hear.
- If you are followed:
 1. Cross the street, walk in the opposite direction, vary your pace and run if necessary.
 2. Head for a public place and/or a telephone. When on campus utilize the Blue Light Emergency Telephone System.
- If you are confronted
 1. Put as many obstacles as possible between you and the attacker.
 2. Scream, make a scene to draw attention to yourself and run!

While driving:

- Have keys in hand before you get to the car.
- Watch the area around your vehicle before you proceed to it.
- Check backseat and underneath vehicle.
- Lock the doors once you are in.
- Park under streetlights. If you park during daylight hours do so under a streetlight so your vehicle will be illuminated when you return to it- after dark.
- If a CARJACKING is attempted:
 1. **DO NOT** allow yourself to be forced into the car.
 2. If you are in the car—get out right away, at all costs.
- If you suspect that you are being followed make three right turns in a row. If the vehicle behind you stays with you go directly to a police station, firehouse or other public place.
- Don't be lured out of your vehicle - i.e. a staged accident. Wait for the police to arrive, or drive away if you have to.

When at home:

- Have keys ready before exiting vehicle.
- Make your residence look occupied at all times:
 1. Leave a light on, or put lights on timers.
 2. Vary the lights that are left on.

- Doors should always be locked, no exceptions.
- Do not leave messages on doors or answering machines, never admit that you are home alone.
- Keep shrubbery closely trimmed and invest in motion detecting lights at entrance ways.
- If a stranger knocks at the door unexpectedly, speak through the door, do not unlock or open it.

In the Residence Halls:

- Keep your door closed and locked even if you just step out for a minute.
- Don't give your combination to anyone.
- Use the viewers provided in the room doors.
- Report unusual conduct or suspicious persons to the University Police.

The University Police Department is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have any questions about the information contained in this pamphlet, or any concerns whatsoever, do not hesitate to contact the Department at 386-7777.

Important Numbers

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT: **386-7777**

HEALTH SERVICES: **386-7333**

VILLAGE POLICE: **386-4561**

RESCUE SQUAD: **386-4544 or 4545**

Blue Light Locations

1. Middle Island
2. Sidewalk on hill between Mohawk Hall and Chaney Dining
3. Parking Lot 13
4. Outside Payson north west corner-plaza
5. Parking Lot 3
6. Parking Lot 5
7. Parking Lot 7
8. Sidewalk south of Cooper Service building
9. Parking Lot 1
10. Southworth Library entrance
11. Athletic field press box building
12. Parking Lot 6
13. Parking Lot 4
14. Sidewalk behind Smith Hall to footbridges
15. Sidewalk in front of Smith Hall
16. Sidewalk in front of Mohawk Hall
17. Sidewalk in front of Rushton Hall
18. Sidewalk in front of Heritage Hall



University Police Department
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To Serve and Protect

