



Personal Safety Advice

IF A SYRINGE IS USED AS A WEAPON

Recently there has been an increase in robberies where a syringe was used as a weapon. Whilst the chances of a syringe carrying any sort of infected material are extremely low, they can cause injuries similar to other sharp weapons. Syringes may provide police with important evidence. Just like any other weapon which may be used in a robbery;

- don't touch it; and
- notify police immediately.



IF A ROBBERY OCCURS

- Do precisely as you are told, and no more;
- Avoid eye contact with the offender;
- Speak only when spoken to;
- Make no sudden movements;
- Try to remain calm and control your emotions;
- Remember as many details as possible about the incident;
- Try and observe what the offender(s) look like; and
- Take note of any weapon used.

ON THE STREET

- Walk purposefully and be aware of your surroundings. Take notice of street names and the location of public telephone boxes;
- At night, if possible, keep to major well lit streets and avoid dark laneways;
- If you are approached for directions stay at least two steps away from the person you are speaking to; and
- If you think you are being followed walk close to the roadway and avoid shortcuts. Find a location with other people in the vicinity.

USING ATM'S

- When using an Automatic Teller Machine, remember your PIN number is your personal signature so use your body to screen the keypad. Before withdrawing money look around for any person that may be watching you or waiting nearby. Place your money in your purse or wallet immediately after the transaction;
- It is a good idea to be aware of your surroundings whilst the transaction is taking place. Stand in a position so that you have a good view of what is going on around you; and
- If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, cancel your transaction and leave.

IN PUBLIC PLACES

- Plan ahead. Think about different situations that may arise, and develop plans that you could act upon if that situation arose;
- Try to minimise the time you spend waiting at shops or transport centres;
- Try not to become isolated from other people. If travelling on public transport or waiting for transport, sit near other people; and
- If using your motor vehicle at night, park your vehicle under street lighting. Consider utilising staffed well lit parking areas if available.

BAGS AND PURSES

- Do not leave your handbag on top of a shopping trolley, especially if your purse is exposed;
- Do not advertise the amount of money you are carrying by opening your purse where people can see into it;
- When carrying your bag over your arm or shoulder, make sure it opens towards you;
- Hold on to your purse or wallet tightly keeping it close to you. Never put it down on a counter while you are loading groceries or signing vouchers;
- Never leave your bag on adjacent seats in theatres, halls or on public transport. Hold it in your lap; and
- In restaurants, put your bag on the floor between your feet. Put your foot on the strap so you can feel if the bag is moved.