

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST PURSE SNATCHERS

Purse snatching is a crime of opportunity. You can eliminate that opportunity. Every female carrying a purse is a potential target. Senior citizens are especially susceptible to these criminals since they may not be readily able to defend themselves and pursue their assailants.

WHAT You CAN Do

Purse snatching is a crime that can be easily prevented by taking away the opportunity from the thief. Most purse snatchers are juveniles under the age of 18, who are waiting for the next opportunity. When you hide the "prize," you protect yourself.

Suppose you are waiting for the bus alone and your purse is in open view. You're already made two mistakes. If you are accosted, your personal safety might depend on not clinging to that purse, even though it will be your first reaction. Struggling w/a purse snatcher can result in injury. However there are ways to protect yourself.

SHOP WITH A FRIEND

TRAVEL TOGETHER

The first precaution you can take is to go shopping with a friend. If you must go out at night alone, stay in well-lighted areas. Walk close to street lights, staying well away from dark corners, alleys and building entrances.

HOW TO OUTSMART THE PURSE SNATCHER

When carrying a purse, women should limit their currency to only three or four one dollar. Preferably credit cards, currency, driver's license, keys and jewelry should be carried in a coat or sweater pocket or concealed on your person to reduce the opportunity of large losses. If you do carry a purse, don't wrap the strap around your shoulder, neck or wrist. If your purse is grabbed, a strong strap will not yield easily and you may be injured. Some purse snatch victims have been thrown off balance and have received concussions, broken hips, arms or legs. Don't carry anything more valuable than you can afford to lose. Always leave all unnecessary credit cards at home. When you shop and carry a purse, put it in your shopping bag. Never leave your purse on a store counter or in a grocery shopping cart—even for a moment.

DON'T CARRY WEAPONS

THAT CAN BE USED AGAINST You

You should carry a pepper spray, police whistle and a small flashlight on your key chain and keep them readily available. Make a habit of carrying your key chain in a pocket—not in your purse. And you should never put your name and address on your house keys or car keys. This is simply a way of telling the thief who you are and where you live.

CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY

Most victims are attacked from behind. They don't get a good look at the attacker. When an attacker is successful once, he'll try it again. If attacked, call the police immediately. Try to remember all details—help your police help you!