

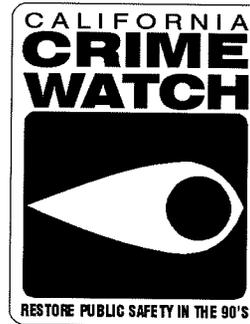


## Home Security Tips

- 💡 Secure all outside doors with deadbolt locks. Outer doors should be solid core wood (1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches thick) or metal.
- 💡 Place a metal or wooden rod in the track of sliding glass doors.
- 💡 Use secure locks on windows. Hardware is available that will allow windows to be partially opened during warm weather, yet maintain security.
- 💡 Have good lighting at all entrances.
- 💡 Install a viewer in your door.
- 💡 Make sure you know who is at the door before you open it. Do not rely on chain locks. Insist on identification from repair and sales persons. If in doubt, call their company to verify their identity.
- 💡 Do not admit persons asking to use your telephone. Offer to make the call for them.
- 💡 Know your neighbors, and work out a mutual watch and warning system to prevent burglaries and other break-ins.
- 💡 Identify your belongings by engraving your driver's license or Department of Motor Vehicles identification number on your possessions.
- 💡 Close and lock doors and windows when you leave your home.
- 💡 If you come home and find a door or window open or signs of forced entry, do not enter. Call the police for assistance.
- 💡 Use automatic timers to turn lights on and off to give the appearance you are at home.
- 💡 Stop mail and other deliveries when you leave for vacation.
- 💡 Do not hide spare keys. Give your keys to trusted neighbors.
- 💡 If you live in an apartment or condominium, be attentive and careful if you are alone in the laundry room or garage.
- 💡 Have the locks rekeyed when you move into a new home.

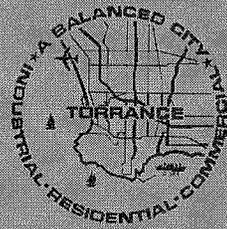
*Courtesy of*

Office of Criminal Justice Planning  
1130 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/324-9100



[www.torrancepd.org](http://www.torrancepd.org)

Provided by



**Torrance Police Department**

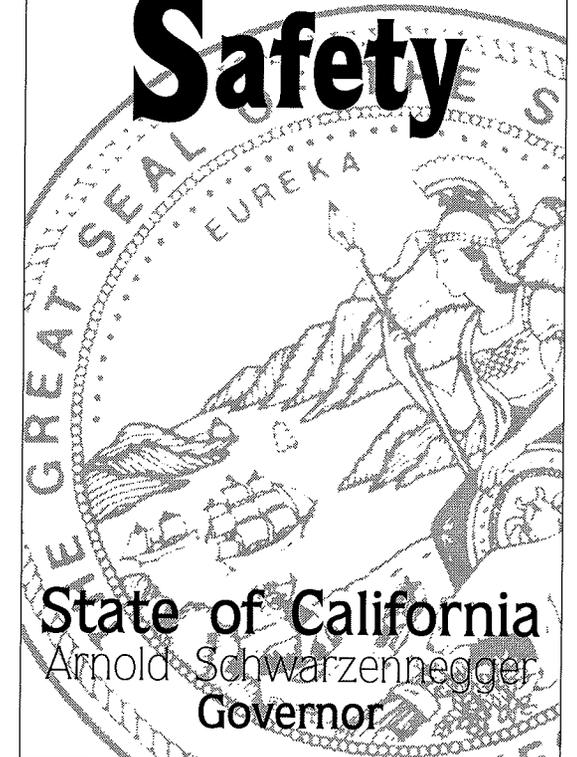
John J. Neu  
Chief of Police  
310/328-3456

**Community Affairs**  
310/618-6391 or 310/618-6392

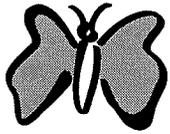
3300 Civic Center Drive  
Torrance, CA 90503

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

# Crime Prevention & Personal Safety



State of California  
Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor



## Babysitting Safety

- ✕ Always post emergency numbers and your address by the telephone for your babysitter.
- ✕ Leave a number where you can be reached and other information the sitter might need.



## Sexual Assault

- 🏠 About one-third of sexual assaults occur in the victim's home.
- 🏠 About 40 percent of sexual assaults are committed by persons known to the victims such as dates, acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, or even spouses.
- 🏠 Rapes also occur in the street, in school yards, and in parking lots. Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- 🏠 Call your local rape crisis center to sign up for prevention and self-defense classes.
- 🏠 Many strategies are involved with rape avoidance. Studies show a combination of screaming, physical resistance, and fleeing is most effective.



## Car Safety

- 🚗 Always lock your car doors even when you will be gone only for a few minutes.
- 🚗 Lock your doors when driving.
- 🚗 Park in well-lighted areas, and observe your surroundings when you leave your car at night.
- 🚗 Always have your car and house keys in hand so you will not have to fumble for them.
- 🚗 Always check the back seat before entering your car.



Keep your car in good working condition.



If your car breaks down, use distress signals such as putting the hood up, putting a white flag on the aerial, or setting your emergency flashers. Remain in the car with the doors locked. Wait for the police or ask anyone who does not stop to send a tow truck or the police. Be wary of accepting help from strangers.



If you are followed by another car, honk your horn all the way to the nearest gas station, police or fire station, or lighted home.



If someone threatens you while you are in your car, lock all doors, and blow the horn in short bursts to attract attention.



Do not pick up hitchhikers.



## On the Street

- ☀ Walk confidently. Be alert. Notice who passes you and who is behind you.
- ☀ Walk in well-lighted areas. Do not walk near bushes, alleys, etc.
- ☀ Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- ☀ Do not overburden yourself with bags or packages that might make running difficult.
- ☀ Carry as little cash as possible. Carry a whistle or freon horn.
- ☀ Hold your purse tightly, close to your body. Keep your wallet in a front or buttoned hip pocket or inside coat pocket.
- ☀ Do not hitchhike.
- ☀ If a car stops you for directions or information, always reply from a safe distance. Never get too close to the car.
- ☀ If a car persists in bothering you, cross the street and walk or run in the opposite direction.
- ☀ If you feel someone is following you, turn around and check. Proceed to the nearest lighted house or place of business.



If you feel you are in danger, do not be afraid to scream and run.



## Safety for Senior Citizens



Have social security or retirement checks sent directly to your checking or savings account.



Beware of get-rich-quick scams or persons who ask you to give them large sums of money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.



Be wary of good deals on expensive home repairs or home improvements.



## Telephone Safety



Do not give information about yourself to strangers over the telephone or admit that you are alone.



Consider listing your name and number in the telephone book without your address. Also, list only the initial of your first name.



Keep all emergency numbers near the telephone.



Hang up immediately on obscene telephone callers.



## In an Elevator



Check the elevator before entering. Wait for the next elevator if you are suspicious of any occupant.



When riding in the elevator, stand near the control panel. If accosted, press all the buttons, including the alarm.