

# SECURITY ALERT

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

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**IT'S EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

## CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS

Over the past 2-months, there have been several reports of on-campus auto burglaries; vandalized vehicles; attempted bike thefts, and a car-fire that resulted from the vehicle being driven into the staircase of one of the campus buildings.

Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, and Sheriff's Deputies were able to capture the individuals involved in these incidents.

Increased campus patrols will be conducted to deter loitering and suspicious activity, and personal safety escorts are provided, 24/7, by calling 415-206-8063 (x68063). Please provide a 20-minute lead time for escort appointments

Traditionally, during the standard time-change and the holiday season, crime increases. Thieves prey on pedestrians walking alone, and vehicles left unattended with packages or personal belongings visibly inside. Most of these crimes are crimes of opportunity, which in many cases can be avoided.

Here are some safety tips that may help you avoid becoming a victim:

- If possible, don't walk alone or after dark. Instead, walk with others when leaving or arriving to work or call Security for a personal safety escort. If you must walk alone, try to walk in well-lit areas, be alert and not on your cell phone, know what business establishments you can duck into should you need help, and don't converse with strangers.
- Avoid opening wallets/purses on the street, and don't use outside ATM machines after dark.
- If someone says something friendly, be polite but brief, and keep walking. Don't say anything that invites further conversation.
- If someone confronts you, stay calm and try not to be or look afraid. Observe your surroundings, and start looking for possible help i.e., other pedestrians, a place of business that is open, maybe even a police car approaching. If no such help is available, be prepared to defend yourself. Start by memorizing their face, ethnicity, height (compare it to your own), age, and any odd marks or tattoos.
- If all they want is your wallet or valuables, give it to them. Don't try to be a hero. Call the police as soon as you're able to, and explain the "who, what, where when and how."
- When going to your vehicle, look under, behind, and in the back seat before getting in. Have your keys in your hand and ready to unlock the door. Once inside, lock the doors immediately.
- Don't leave belongings in your vehicle where they are visible.
- To report security emergencies or suspicious activity/behavior, immediately contact SFSO at (628) 206-4911 (x64911.) **Race, gender, and religious affiliation are NOT considered suspicious.**