

After the Robbery

- Go to a safe location close to the place where the robbery occurred and call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Ask all witnesses to remain until the officer arrives. If witnesses must leave, obtain his/her name, address, and telephone number.
- Witnesses should write or remember their account of the robbers and their actions. Do not discuss the robbery or compare notes about the robber's appearance with anyone.
- Protect the crime scene. Try not to touch anything.

Did You Know?

- Many of the robberies are of individual victims and are committed by one or more male robbers.
- A lot of these robberies take place on the way to and from your car, especially in shopping centers and apartment parking lots. Robberies are also taking place on the street while you are walking.
- Robbery is a crime of opportunity that can be reduced through awareness and prevention.
- Robbers are serial criminals and will continue to prey on victims until arrested.
- Failure to report a robbery, not prosecuting the criminal if you are a victim or not providing information to the police about the robber ensures that people will continue to be victimized.



Dear Friends:

Since 1909, the deputies of Palm Beach County have always provided a safe environment for the people who live, work and visit Palm Beach County. The Sheriff's Office is committed to improving awareness, and sharing the fundamentals of crime prevention in order to ensure our community is safe and secure.

The goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. In order to accomplish this effectively, it is important to remove opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you and your property. You are attempting to prevent either victimization or criminalization by presenting an unattractive target to the criminal. This can be as complex as installing a high tech alarm system and lighting to something as simple as locking your doors.

Crime prevention is using instinct, common sense, and taking action to eliminate or greatly reduce the criminal's opportunity. We all have a personal part to play regarding crime prevention. A large share of the responsibility of reducing criminal opportunity lies with you.

Thank you for working with us to make Palm Beach County a safer place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

*Ric Bradshaw, Sheriff
Palm Beach County*



The mission of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is to help reduce crime in business and residential communities by working together in partnership and through various proactive strategies, techniques, and programs.

EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

Non-Emergency Numbers:

South County (561) 995-2800
North County (561) 688-3000
West County (561) 996-1670

For more information contact the
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
1937 N Military Trail, Suite-Q
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409
(561) 688-3970

Email: CrimePrevention@pbso.org



ROBBERY PREVENTION



A robbery is one of the most serious and potentially dangerous crimes committed in the United States today. A robber commits a holdup because he or she believes that their profit will be worth the risk. By increasing the risk of apprehension, potential victims can reduce their chances of becoming a target.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff

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Prevention at Home

- All doors leading to the outside should have dead-bolt locks.
- Lock your doors and windows when you are at home.
- Before opening an exterior door, make sure you know the identity of the person at your door.
- Do not open the door to an unexpected visitor. This includes company employees and other solicitors.
- Install a peephole with a 180-degree viewing angle so that you can verify who is on the other side of your door.
- Do not advertise that you live alone.
- Make sure exterior lighting is on at night. Inexpensive timers or photoelectric cells will automatically turn lights on and off at dusk and dawn.

Reduce Your Chance of Being Carjacked

- Always park in a well-lighted area so you can see your car and its surroundings from a distance.

- Have your car keys ready as you approach your vehicle and look under, around and inside your car for persons who may be hiding. If safe, enter and immediately lock all doors.
- Stay alert. Don't drive on autopilot. Watch your mirrors for any car that might be following.
- If you think someone is following you, do not go home. Drive to the nearest police, fire, service station, or other well-lighted area where there are people that can help.
- While stopping in traffic, leave enough room between your car and the one in front of you so you can maneuver and escape if necessary.
- Keep an alert eye out for any suspicious persons at intersections.

Walk Alertly and Confidently

- Try not to walk alone. It's a lot safer if you walk with at least one other person.
- Be alert, walk with your head up and do not let your mind wander.
- When walking at night, walk in well-lighted areas and stay on the sidewalk.

- Trust your instincts and avoid uncomfortable situations.
- Be observant for groups of males/females driving or just hanging around.
- Do not take shortcuts through unlit, poorly traveled paths such as trails, stairwells, or alleys.

Be Smart About Cash

- Carry only the amount of cash that you expect to use. If cash is needed use ATM or debit cards.
- Avoid outdoor ATM's and those in secluded areas inside, particularly at night.
- Be alert at banks or check cashing businesses. Carrying cash marks you as a target.
- Avoid showing your wallet. Keep needed cash, ID, and credit cards in an accessible pocket.
- Avoid wearing expensive or expensive looking jewelry when not necessary and carry as little cash as possible. Leave valuable items at home if not needed.

What to Do During a Robbery

- Remain calm, DO NOT resist. Don't try to be a hero. Take no action that would jeopardize your safety.
- Follow the robber's directions, but do not volunteer more than asked for.
- If you have to move or reach, tell the robber what you are going to do and why. Assure the robber that you will cooperate.

Make Mental Notes of:

- The robber's race, age, height, weight, sex, clothing hair, eye color, etc.
- Anything unusual about the robber such as scars or tattoos.
- The number of robbers and how they left the scene, direction of travel, make, type, and color of vehicle. Get the license number if you can safely do so.
- Any conversation the robbers may have with one another.
- What the robber's weapon looked like so you can describe it later.