

# **CRIME PREVENTION TIPS**

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Tips Provided by the Hays Police Department

**Remember these are only tips, you can do everything right and still be the victim of a crime. If a crime happens to you call 911 or the University Police at 628-5304.**

## **General**

- Always lock and secure your car and never leave your valuables, including cell phones and CD cases, in plain view.
- Always lock your bicycle with a U-lock through the front wheel and frame to the bike rack.
- Always lock your door(s) when sleeping or away from your residence hall room or apartment.
- Do not keep large amounts of money in your possession. Keep your checks, credit cards and other items of value secured and out of sight.
- Always keep your room keys with you, even when going to the showers. Do not lend your keys to others.
- Do not prop open any exterior doors.
- Report any suspicious person or activity to the University Police Department at 628-5304.
- Always ask, "Who's there?" before saying "Come in."
- At night avoid dark, secluded routes in your travels on and about campus. Be aware of the location of emergency phones and plan your route accordingly.
- Don't leave your backpack or books unattended.
- Have a "designated friend" when you go out. This person should be the designated driver and should look out for people in your party who may be drugged or so intoxicated they are making poor decisions. This person should be completely sober.

## **Personal Safety in Parking Lots**

- Walk to your vehicle with your keys in hand. Do not place keys between the web of your fingers as a weapon; this will hurt you more than anyone else. Instead hold your door key between your first finger and thumb; it can be used to jab at eyes or soft tissue if needed. If you use a remote, unlock only the driver's side door.
- Walk with others or make arrangements to leave work or class with others.
- Check in with a friend or family member and let them know that you are leaving/arriving so that they are aware of your plans.
- Check the interior of your vehicle before getting in by glancing in the windows.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously, report that information to the University Police Department. You can contact the Police by using one of the emergency telephones located in the Kiosks or by dialing 911.
- If you carry mace or other personal protection devices make sure that you have used them before and know how they work.

## **Tips for Drivers**

- Always keep your vehicle locked with windows up, even while driving.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Avoid isolated roads and short-cuts.
- Never pick up hitchhikers or people you don't know well.
- Keep your vehicle in good repair. Make certain you have enough fuel.
- Remain inside your vehicle if you develop mechanical trouble. Keep the doors locked and the windows up until help arrives. To signal distress, put up the hood or display a sign. If someone stops to offer help, don't leave the vehicle; ask that they call the police or a service provider.
- If you are followed, drive to the nearest open business for help, or go to a police or fire station.

- When dropping someone off, wait until passengers have safely entered their residence or destination.
- If involved in a minor collision at night or in an isolated location, do not exit to inspect damage or contact the other driver. Signal the other driver with your lights, and proceed to the nearest lighted and occupied business or police station.

## **Tips to Help Reduce Your Chances of Becoming a Victim of a Non-Stranger Rape:**

- For your first few meetings, go somewhere public and consider driving yourself to the location until you feel comfortable with the person you are meeting.
- Let others know what your plans are and what time to expect your return.
- Be aware of individuals who take conversational liberties or touch inappropriately.
- Discuss limits and expectations of the date and relationship with the person you are seeing.
- If you choose to consume alcohol, drink moderately.
- If on a date, when your date is over, say your good-byes at a public place or in the vehicle so you do not feel pressured to invite the person in your room.
- If you feel that you may be the victim of a sexual assault facilitating drug get help immediately. These drugs can incapacitate someone in a very short time.
- Know that sexual violence is not the fault of the victim. Only the perpetrators can completely prevent rapes and sexual assaults.

## **Vehicle Safety Tips for Travel:**

- Plan your route ahead of time. Have maps and directions in the vehicle before you leave.
- Always try and have at least a half a tank of gas. This will help if weather, construction, or vehicle problems cause you to become stranded.
- Always remember the last exit you passed to assist you in getting help to your location.
- Carry in the vehicle an empty gas container, a gallon of water (allowing room in the container for expansion if freezing temperatures), food bars, blankets, a candle, and a "call for help" sign.
- Learn how to change a tire and perform basic maintenance on your vehicle before traveling.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to get to a location.

## **Sexual Assault – An Underreported Crime**

- Most students who are raped or sexually assaulted do not report it. They fear publicity, blame, disbelief, or reprisals – especially if they know their attackers. Most college sexual assaults are committed by dates and acquaintances. Protect yourself:
- Be especially cautious during your first weeks at school – that is when new students are most vulnerable.
- Do not use drugs or alcohol on dates.
- Say “no” forcefully if pressured for unwanted sex.
- If “no” does not work, try to get away by running and screaming for help.
- A person has the right at any time to say “no” to any sexual act. Everyone also has the right to turn down a partner with whom he/she previously consented to have sex. THESE ARE LEGAL RIGHTS.

***Know What to do if You are Sexually Assaulted:***

- Report the crime to campus police and or university officials.
- Get medical attention. The medical professionals collect specimens and make detailed notes about the physical evidence, such as bruises, cuts, torn clothing, and traces of semen. You should be tested later for pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV.
- Do not wash or change clothes – you could destroy evidence.
- Date rape, acquaintance rape, and any unwanted sexual contact are crimes. REPORT THEM!

***Prevent Date Rape:***

- When you use threats, intimidation, or force against a date to have sex, you are committing a crime.
- A rapist can be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted of a crime.
- When a date says “no” –stop
- Being drunk or drugged is no legal excuse.
- If your date is drunk or drugged, it is still rape. In most states, sex with someone who is intoxicated so that their judgment is impaired is sexual assault.

## **RAPE AWARENESS**

### **LEARN HOW TO PREVENT IT / LEARN THE FACTS**

Rape is a violent sexual act committed against a person’s will.

Myth: Women who wear seductive clothing are asking to be raped.

FACT: No woman ever wants to be forced into having sex – no matter how she is dressed.

Myth: Many women falsely report rapes to get back at men.

FACT: Usually the opposite is true – rape often goes unreported because women feel embarrassed, ashamed or afraid they won’t be believed.

Myth: Women secretly want to be raped.

FACT: Rape is a brutal crime. No woman wants the pain, injury or violence involved in raped.

Myth: A rapist wants sexual satisfaction.

FACT: Rapists use sex as a way to hurt and humiliate women. Rape is an act of power and generally has little to do with sexual desire.

Myth: Rapists are impulsive and cannot control their desires.

FACT: Most rapes are planned.

Myth: Rape only happens to single women who are not careful.

FACT: All types of women are attacked in all types of circumstances.

Myth: Women who say “no” really mean “yes.”

FACT: The word “no” means No – it should never be interpreted in any other way.

Myth: Women are powerless against the threat of rape.

FACT: Although rape is never a woman’s fault, there are many things a woman can do to reduce the risk of rape.

## **WAYS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF RAPE**

### ***At Home:***

- Avoid isolated places, such as elevators, laundry rooms and garages, when you are alone or you feel uncomfortable with someone there.
- Leave lights on when you are out. Have your keys ready when you return.
- Install a peephole, and use it! Do not open the door to strangers. Have police, service people, and etc. slip identification under the door. Call the station or home office to verify the person's business.
- Do not enter your home if it looks like it has been broken into. Call the police from the nearest phone.
- Install and use quality deadbolt locks on all entry doors. Install and use window key locks on windows.
- Vary your daily routine, if possible so it is not predictable.

### ***On Dates or in Social Situations:***

- Learn about a man's attitudes – his words may reveal hostility toward women.
- Avoid alcohol and other drugs – they can cloud judgment and slow responses. Be aware of your date's use of them too.
- Do not leave your drink unattended or drink something you did not get or open yourself. Anyone can slip "date rape drugs" into a drink. These can cause intense drunkenness, difficulty moving and memory loss.
- Make your limits clear before you get into a sexual situation.
- Drive yourself, go with another couple or arrange your own transportation, especially if you do not know your date well.
- Avoid secluded places, such as parks. Meet in public where help will be nearby.

### ***Walking:***

- Plan your route and walk confidently.
- Do not walk in isolated areas, especially at night.
- Never hitchhike.
- If you are being followed go into a store or other area with people, or knock on a door for help.

### ***Driving:***

- Lock your car when driving and parked.
- Avoid isolated or poorly lit parking spots
- Scan the area when approaching your car. Look under your car and in the back seat too.
- Have your keys ready when approaching the car.
- If your car breaks down. Lock the doors and stay inside. Ask anyone who stops to call for help (Speak through a closed or slightly cracked window)

Note: Every rape is different – and sometimes it is hard for women to decide if they were really raped. If you are confused or frightened by something that happened, talk with a friend or the Kelly Center (785) 628-4401.

## **DON'T TAKE CHANCES!!**

### **DO NOT take your safety for granted!**

Learn how to protect yourself and your belonging against crime.

#### ***Keep your Door Locked***

- Leaving it open for even one minute is an invitation to robbery or attack.

- Always lock your room or office if you are alone after hours.
- If you take even a short nap, first make sure the door is locked.
- Always find out who is knocking before you open the door.
- Never leave doors propped open for friends who will be coming over later.

### ***Keep your Keys Safe***

- Don't lend your key to anyone.
- Don't leave keys lying around in your room, apartment.
- Never let anyone else use a key you have been entrusted with.
- If your key is lost or stolen, report it to the Residential Life staff, landlord, and police.
- At night, have your keys ready before you get to your door (car, apartment).

By understanding the risks and learning how to reduce them, you can make yourself a less likely target for crime.

Also, know what to do after an attack. You need to take action after a crime. This may include calling the police, getting medical treatment and talking to a counselor.

### ***Crime can Happen***

- To anybody. Victims come from all economic classes and cultural backgrounds.
- At any time of day. Many crimes occur broad daylight, when you may least expect it.
- Just about anywhere. People are often attacked in places that seem safe (i.e. home, office or car). Safety depends less on where you are then on what precautions you have taken.

### ***There is a lot you can do to Reduce your Risks***

- Avoid Risky Situations
- Stay out of isolated areas, especially at night
- Do not go off alone with anyone you do not know well.
- Never hitchhike.
- Stay alert
- Pay attention to your surroundings – and the people in them! Watch for behavior or attitudes that may signal trouble.
- Trust your instincts
- If you sense something is wrong, get away as soon as possible. It is always best to be cautious.

### ***Following These Tips Can Make you Less Vulnerable***

- Know where you are going and the safest way to get there.
- Tell a friend or family member when you will be leaving and when you expect to arrive.
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes so you will be able to move fast if you have to.
- Walk at a good, steady pace, and keep your head up – do not look down at the ground.
- Look confident – if you find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings do not show confusion or alarm.
- Stay on well-lighted streets – choose routes where other people will be walking. Walk with a friend, whenever possible.
- Do not wear headphones – they make you less aware of what is going on around you.
- Change course if someone is following you on foot. Cross the street and head toward people.
- If followed by a car, turn around and walk in the opposite direction.
- Carry a whistle or other noisemaker. The sound may scare off an attacker.
- Do not stand too close to the car if you are giving motorist directions.

- Take special care when jogging or biking. Vary your route. Go with a friend, and avoid isolated areas.

#### ***In the Car***

- Keep doors locked and windows rolled up when driving
- Don't pick up hitchhikers, no matter how harmless they look.
- Keep an eye on your fuel gauge – stop for gas if you are running low.
- Maintain your car, to reduce the chances of a breakdown.

#### ***If your Car Breaks Down on the Highway***

- Raise the hood and turn on the emergency flashers.
- Stay inside the car with the doors locked. Wait for the police.
- If someone stops, crack the window and ask him or her to call the police or a nearby garage.
- Carry a "Send Help" or "call police" banner in your car.

#### ***Use Caution on Dates***

- Make your sexual limits clear. Do this before you get in a sexual situation. If you are pressured, be firm in your refusal. Tell the person that "no" means no.
- Avoid secluded places. For example, stay away from deserted parks or a private home or apartment. Suggest meeting in a public place or double dating.
- Beware of alcohol and other drugs. They make it harder to stay in control.
- Do not leave your drink unattended or drink anything you did not get or open yourself – date rape drugs mixed in drinks can leave you vulnerable.
- Be independent. Do not let your date make all the decisions about where you go.

## **STREET SENSE – IT IS ELEMENTARY**

Test your street sense....

1. Do you jog by yourself early in the morning or late at night when it is quiet and lonely?

Yes

No

2. Do you carry all your possessions – cash, keys, credit cards, and checkbook – in a beloved but tattered backpack every place you go and then leave it laying around?

Yes

No

3. When you work late at the computer lab or library, do you think it is silly to call a friend or the University Police at 2 a.m.?

Yes

No

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need to change a few habits. Even if your score was a perfect "no, or never!" read on. A few minutes might prevent trouble later.

#### ***Street Sense 101 – The Basic Mindset***

- Wherever you are – walking between classes, in the library, shopping, driving – stay alert and tuned into your surroundings.
- Walk with confidence – show that you are aware and in control. Body language works.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, get out or away.

### ***Street Sense 201 – Practical Advice***

- Walk with a friend, whenever possible
- Do not fumble in your pocket or purse for your door key – have it in hand before you reach your home or car.
- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled areas. No shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.
- Avoid jogging or biking alone. If you must go by yourself, stay clear of isolated or poorly lighted areas.
- Out late studying? Call a friend or the University Police when you are ready to leave.
- If you think someone is following you, abruptly switch directions or cross the street. If you are still being followed go to a public place and ask for help.

### ***Telephone Sense 202 – How to Handle the Obscene Phone Call***

- Hang up as soon as you realize the nature of the call.
- Do not try to find out who the caller is, and do not show any reaction.
- If the calls keep coming, notify the police. Keep a log of the times, what the caller said, a description of the voice, and any background noise.

### ***Protecting yourself at Home, in your Room or Apartment***

- Lock your door, even when you intend to return home shortly or even if you are just going down the hall. It takes a thief ten seconds or less to enter an open room and steal your property.
- Lock or secure doors and windows when you are alone or asleep.
- Keep emergency numbers by your phone.
- Do not leave messages on your door indicating that you are away and when you will return.
- Do not let strangers enter your room or apartment.
- Do not prop open exterior doors
- If someone asks to use your phone for an emergency call, offer to call for them instead of allowing them access into your room or apartment.
- Do not put your address on your key ring.
- Know your neighbors.
- Do not leave keys in hiding places. Thieves will find them.
- Call 911 to report suspicious persons or activity in or around your neighborhood.

### ***Protect Yourself When Walking***

- Avoid walking alone at night unless absolutely necessary.
- Keep to well-lighted, commonly traveled routes
- Avoid shortcuts and dark isolated areas.
- Walk purposefully, know where you are going, and project a no-nonsense image.
- Avoid potentially dangerous situations.
- If you feel threatened, cross the street, locate an emergency phone or enter a store or place of business even if you have just left it.
- Have your door keys ready. Carry them in your pockets, not buried in a purse.

### ***Important Phone Numbers***

<u>University Police:</u>	(785) 628-5304 (8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) (785) 625-1011 (after hours)
<u>Hays City Police Department:</u>	(785) 625-1011 (non-emergency) 911 (emergency)
<u>Student Affairs Office:</u>	(785) 628-4276

## **Crime Prevention Tips Provided by the Hays Police Department**

### ***Stay Safe – Utilize a Designated Driver***

As the work week ends it may be tempting to relax with an alcoholic beverage and enjoy the time off. When we are consuming such drinks, it can be tempting to drive home, regardless of how much alcohol has been consumed. Unfortunately, doing so when too much alcohol has been consumed can be a costly and deadly mistake.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 30 minutes and injures someone every two minutes. In 2008, 11,773 people in the US died in alcohol-impaired motor vehicle crashes, which was 32% of all traffic-related deaths. (NHTSA). Three hundred eighty-five people died in 2008 on Kansas roads in alcohol-related crashes. (KDOT) These statistics are frightening considering that most alcohol-related crashes could have been prevented had the drinker not chosen to drive.

Plan ahead. Be responsible. Organize a designated driver for you and your friends, or be one yourself. It is much more fun to have a safe, enjoyable evening with a sober driver than it is to spend the night in jail or at the hospital after an alcohol-related crash. Please be responsible and help keep our community safe. Don't Drink and Drive.

### ***Be a Good Neighbor – Be Careful of Noise after 10 p.m.***

Complaints of loud parties in Hays can be numerous and can keep officers busy. If a neighbor is having a party which seems too loud and is keeping you awake, or another neighbor is revving the engine of his vehicle while he is working on it, there are laws in place to handle these disturbances. Unreasonable noise is unlawful, according to city ordinance, if it causes a reasonable person "significant annoyance and irritation." Defined as unreasonable is any electrically amplified sound heard from a distance of 25' or more, and occurring between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. This amplified sound (i.e. a loud stereo) can come from a building, such as a house or shed, OR a motor vehicle. Also unlawful is a large party whose crowd generates enough noise to be heard from a distance of 25' or more from its source, again between 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM. Complaints of such activity are often phoned in to the police department and handled accordingly by officers. Should an officer arrive at a loud party and verify that the noise is unreasonable, the tenant or person responsible could be given a verbal or written warning. In some instances, an arrest is made for creating a loud noise disturbance. As much as we all may enjoy listening to great music (in your car or at home), working on a vehicle, or having a party with friends, we must be considerate to others. As the time nears 10:00 PM we ask everyone to be a thoughtful, considerate member of the community and be careful about how loud you may be. Having consideration for neighbors and controlling noise helps to keep away some unwanted guests – officers of the Hays Police Department.

### ***Parking and Pedestrians***

Pedestrians in the city of Hays have a right to walk on sidewalks clear of obstacles. Our city ordinance protects pedestrians by making it illegal to park vehicles blocking a sidewalk. This applies even when the vehicle is parked in a private driveway. Also in violation of the ordinance would be parking a vehicle on a crosswalk or in front of a public or private driveway, within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, or within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection. These laws are in place to protect pedestrians by allowing them the safety of sidewalks instead of having to walk in the street. Drivers are also protected by regulated parking so parked vehicles are as little an inconvenience as possible while parked on a city street.

Parking left of center is also a problem commonly observed by officers in Hays. Left of center means parking your vehicle facing oncoming traffic, and parking on the left side of the roadway designed for two-way traffic. This creates a safety hazard when a vehicle is both driving left to park on the wrong side of the road, and driving away from that parking spot. The driver is driving into oncoming traffic. Both driving left of center and parking left of center are offenses for which an officer may issue a ticket. Laws regarding left of center driving and parking are in place to

keep everyone safe, to maintain the normal flow of traffic on two-way streets, and to prevent accidents. So please remember, always drive and park on the "right" side of the road.

### ***Proper Response to Emergency Lights and Siren***

When traveling across Hays or down the highway, most drivers at some point in their driving careers will have an emergency vehicle approach him or her with lights flashing and en route to an emergency. Should a police officer or other emergency vehicle suddenly appear in your rear-view mirror with his or her emergency lights and siren activated, immediately pull over safely to the right side of the roadway. Do not pull over to the left or continue driving assuming the vehicle will pass you. Even if your destination is a short distance and a left turn away, merge to the right, stop, and allow the emergency vehicle to pass. This is also the case if an emergency vehicle which has its lights and siren activated is approaching you from the opposite direction. The proper procedure again is to pull over as far to the right of the roadway as can be done safely, and stop. Failing to yield to emergency vehicles places both the emergency responders and the public's safety in jeopardy, and can delay the arrival time of these responders to their destination. Not yielding to an emergency vehicle is also an offense for which a Hays Police Officer may cite a driver. The emergency responder is traveling with lights and siren activated because there is an emergency that warrants a response time quicker than that of driving with traffic.

Also encountered frequently is an officer who has made a traffic stop on the side of the city street or highway, or another emergency vehicle parked on the side of the road at an emergency situation. As we drive by, we need to slow down when passing a stopped emergency vehicle and move as far away, as safely possible, from that emergency vehicle. This protects the officers or emergency responders from potential tragedy. Your understanding and cooperation helps keep everybody safe.

### ***Stay on Private Property with your Alcoholic Beverage***

As we relax after a hard day at work or school and are having a beer or alcoholic drink with friends (presuming we are 21 years old or older) it is important to remember to stay on private property. If you decide to go next door or down the street, do not carry any open container with alcohol onto the sidewalk or down the street. Doing so is a violation of the law.

City ordinance defines public possession as having a full or partially full open alcoholic beverage on any city street, alley, or sidewalk. It may be tempting to move around from party to party with an open alcoholic drink. The better choice is to finish your drink before you leave one area, or stay on private property. Even if you are carrying an open bottle or container that you are not drinking, this is a violation of the public possession ordinance.

### ***Always Think Safety and Security***

As much as we would all like to go back twenty years, when we could leave the keys in the ignition of the car and never lock the doors of our home, times have changed. As our community continues to grow and some people are not to be trusted, it is important that we safeguard ourselves and our property. With the new school year here, numerous college students have either moved to Hays for the first time or returned for another year of classes. Safety needs to be a priority both on and off campus. For those living in off campus housing, using common sense can be key in not letting yourself become a victim.

An act as simple as locking your door at night can prevent an unwanted guest from entering your home while you sleep. Leaving your porch lights on can prevent a prowler from approaching your house. Locking your car and not leaving valuable items in your vehicle can prevent your stereo or personal items from being stolen. Walk with a friend if you have to walk somewhere at night. Always be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activity to the Hays Police Department. Trust your gut instinct that something or someone may not be right. Although Hays is by no means a large city, crimes do happen here. Hays Police have handled cases in which unlocked houses were entered while the tenants were sleeping. Vehicles were burglarized and hundreds of dollars worth of items stolen while the vehicles were left unlocked. More often than

not a person can protect themselves by simply thinking about their actions and using approaches to help prevent being a victim. A porch light on and the flip of the lock on cars and homes can go a long way towards keeping you and your property safe.