



Public Safety

North District Crime Prevention Tips

Hate Crimes

- **What you can do to fight violence and racism against Asian Americans**
- Speak out if you witness a hate crime or incident
- Report the hate crime or incident
- Consider taking part in a training about hate
- Check in with your Asian American peers
- Learn about the history of Asian American discrimination
- Advocate for awareness in your workplace
- Reach out to your elected officials
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- **If you have been the Victim of a Hate Crime, you can contact a community- based organization for support.**
- **Asian American Associations**
- Jersey City Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition
- Philippine Community Center Foundation of New Jersey
- Jersey City Asian Merchant Association, (201) 659-8844
- Asian American Civic Association Inc., (201) 217-1333
- **If anybody has information, you can report an anonymous tip at icpdtips@gmail.com or call 855-JCP-TIPS or 855.527.8477. Please report any suspicious activity to 201.547.5477 or call 9-1-1 for crimes in progress.**

Taking Buses & Subways

- **For the subway:**
- Plan your trip before leaving. Visit the [MTA website](#) for directions or delays in service and download [the transit app](#).
- Board the conductor's car (look for the indicator/Zebra Board).
- Stay several steps away from the yellow line.
- Try putting your back up against the wall, or against one of the steel columns, which will eliminate the chance of anyone pushing you from behind.
- Speak to MTA employees or use the [Customer Assistance Intercom](#) located on the platform if you need immediate assistance. In case of an emergency, call 911.
- **For the subway:**
- During late night hours, request a stop by asking the driver to let you off anywhere along the route, even if it is not a designated stop.
- Use well-lit and busy stops whenever possible.
- If you're getting off at a little-used stop, try to arrange for a friend to meet with you.
- When riding the bus or waiting at a bus stop stay alert, and don't doze off.
- Consider waiting inside a nearby retail location and tracking your bus's arrival through [MTA BusTime](#).

Increase your personal Safety

- Reduce or eliminate opportunities that may make you a target.
- Increase awareness in places where you're most comfortable.
- Trust your instincts even if you feel embarrassed.
- Prepare your schedule daily with safety in mind.
- Be AWARE of your surroundings at all times and trust your INSTINCTS.
- Stay in well lit, populated pathways. Avoid shortcuts.
- Travel in groups. There's always safety in numbers.
- Walk with your head upright. Make eye contact. Thieves often target victims who are not paying attention to their surroundings or who are looking down.
- Pay attention to your surroundings when using electronics on the streets, subways & buses. Don't TUNE yourself out. DON'T WALK AND TEXT.
- Don't display electronics when not in use. Avoid becoming a victim of "Apple Picking."
- Change the color of your earphones from "White" to any other color. White earphones usually indicates that you have an APPLE DEVICE which is an attractive target for thieves.
- Avoid traveling or short cuts through parks after dark.
- Before entering your apartment building, have your keys ready. Don't hold doors for anyone whom you don't know.
- If you observe anyone acting in a suspicious manner, or if you feel threatened in any way, call the police immediately by dialing 911.

If Someone Tries to Rob you

- Give up your property-don't give up your life, your life is more important. You can always replace your property.
- Report the crime to the police **911 ASAP**. Let the Police Operator know where you are at & try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.
- **As always, report suspicious activity to Public Safety RIGHT AWAY!**
- **Emergency numbers:**
 - 201.547.5477
 - 911

Strolling - Day and Night

- Plan your route, know where you are going before leaving.
- Try to walk places with your friends rather than alone.
- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.
- Take the safest route to and from schools, stores, or your friends' houses. Know where to go for help if you need it.
- Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets like cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
- Carry your backpack or purse close to your body and keep it closed. Just carrying a wallet? Put it inside your coat or front pants pocket, not in your back pocket or in your backpack.
- Have your car or house key in your hand before you reach the door.
- If you think someone is following you, change direction or cross the street. If they're still there, move quickly toward an open store, restaurant or a Public Safety Safe Haven. Don't be afraid to yell for help.
- Be alert in the neighborhood. Call the police 911 to report suspicious persons or suspicious activity.

Home Safety

- Have your keys ready before you get to the door. Look back before entering your building or home. If you live in an apartment, close the lobby door behind you, especially if a stranger is approaching. Do not hold the door open for strangers. Make all visitors and delivery persons use the doorbell.
- When placing your name on mailboxes or on your bell, use only the last name, e.g., The Smiths.
- When recording an outgoing message on your answering machine, avoid leaving your name, phone number or a message that indicates you're not at home. A good message is, "We are unable to answer the phone. Please leave a message." Say it confidently.

Home Burglaries 1/2

- **Home Burglaries**
- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
- Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
- Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.
- Other windows may need better locks. Check with a locksmith or hardware store for alternatives.
- Don't share your vacation plans on social media.
- **Don't Tempt a Thief**
- Lawn mowers, barbecues and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- Always lock your garden sheds and garages.
- Use curtains on garage and basement windows.
- **Targeting the Outside**
- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so that they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Make sure your door hinges are on the inside.
- **Alarms**
- An alarm system is excellent for home security. It provides peace of mind to homeowners, especially while on vacation.
- If you have a home alarm system, use it! Activate your alarm system — alarm systems are only useful when you remember to activate them.
- Many individuals have alarm systems but do not arm them because it is inconvenient. Many burglars know this and will not be deterred by a window sticker or sign indicating that the home has an alarm system.

Home Burglaries 2/2

- **If Your Home Is Broken Into**
- If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door:
- Do not enter - the perpetrator may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor's phone to call police.
- Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence.
- Write down the license plate numbers of any suspicious vehicles.
- Note the descriptions of any suspicious persons.
- **Other precautions you should take:**
- Never leave keys under doormats, flowerpots, mailboxes or other "secret" hiding places -- burglars know where to look for hidden keys.
- Keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase and original value, and serial numbers, and keep a copy in a safe place away from home — this is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.
- Trim your shrubbery around your home to reduce cover for burglars.
- Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number with an engraver you can borrow from your precinct. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover.
- Form a Neighborhood Watch Group. We can help you work with your neighbors to improve security and reduce risk of burglary.
- Consider installing a burglar alarm system.

Walking - Be Street Smart

- Use well populated and well-lit streets. If you suspect you're being followed, stay away from deserted blocks and head for an area where there are many people, or the nearest open store or a Public Safety SAFE HAVEN (Police Department, Fire Department, churches, Hospitals)
- If you're being driven home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.
- Keep your smart phone on your person / coat or jacket, don't display when not in use especially while using mass transit. Use a hands-free device and pay attention to your surroundings.

Helpful Safety Tips for Joggers

- Safety in numbers, jog with friends in well-lit / traveled areas, avoiding short cuts and poorly lit parks. Jog in open spaces, away from bushes or alcoves where someone could hide.
- Jog in a familiar area but vary your routes. Changing the route you take will prevent someone from noting your schedule or movements.
- Carry your ID. Do not run with your phone or other valuables in sight and avoid devices that may distract you.
- If you suspect you're being followed, call the police immediately and find a safe place to wait for them to arrive.
- Wear bright colored clothing to improve your visibility.

Safety Tips while using Ride Share Services like Uber & Lyft

- **Wait for your ride indoors** - This prevents you from standing outside unnecessarily with a phone in your hand, signaling to passing motorists that you're waiting for someone to pick you up. Instead, wait until your driver is close or has arrived before going outside.
- **Confirm details when the car arrives** - Don't just look at what time your driver is coming. Pay attention to the make, model, and color of the car, as well as the driver's name and photo. Make sure to match the license plate number on your screen to the one you see in real life.
- **Always ask "What's my name?"** -always positively identifying your driver. Never get into an Uber, Lyft or any other private car unless the driver can first identify you by name. If they're your actual driver, they will also know your destination.
- **Map your own route during the ride** - This is especially important if you're in a different city and aren't familiar with the route. By monitoring your own GPS navigation, you'll see if the driver is leading you astray.
- **Don't share private information with your driver** - This includes your personal phone number. The Uber app automatically encrypts both the driver's number and the passenger's digits to protect both sides' privacy. You should never share credit card info with the driver. All Lyft and Uber fares are paid through the app, and tips can be added there, too.
- **Ride in the back seat** - If you're the only passenger in the car, riding in the back seat gives both the passenger and driver more personal space. It also ensures you're able to get out on either side to avoid traffic.
- **Tell a friend where you're going and who you're with** - Both Lyft and Uber let you quickly and easily share who your driver is, where you're going and when you're supposed to get there. The "share status" option in the Uber app gives your friend your driver's name, photo, license plate and location. Your friend can then track your trip and see your estimated time of arrival -- even if he or she doesn't have the app. The "send ETA" feature on the Lyft app is very similar. It sends a text to your friend with details about the car, the driver and how far along you are on the route.

Prevent Theft of Unattended Packages at Your Building

- Pick up packages as quickly as possible.
- Leaving packages in the lobby for an extended period increases the chances of theft. Most major shipping companies offer online package tracking, and some can even send you a notification when your package arrives. Utilize these and other services to avoid leaving your delivery unattended for long periods of time.
- Don't allow building access blindly.
- Verify a visitor's identity over the intercom before letting them in. Keep an eye out for suspicious activity like loitering and "piggybacking." People may wait outside the building for someone to leave or enter, allowing them access to an open door. If you believe someone has entered the building on false pretenses, call Public Safety immediately.
- Request a signature or schedule a delivery.
- Many shipping companies allow you to request a specific time frame for delivery, such as an evening or weekend when you know you will be home. You can also request that the package not be left without a signature. That way, if you are not around to sign, the carrier will try delivering your package at a later date.
- Use a locker or other secure location.
- Sign up for free services such as FedEx Delivery Manager® and UPS My Choice® or use Amazon Lockers to deliver your package to a local retail store or another secure location until you are able to pick it up. The FedEx Office Ship Center on 116th and Broadway and the UPS Store on 115th and Broadway will also hold packages for pickup upon request. Visit their websites to learn more.
- Ship your items where you have the best chance of receiving them, such as your office or place of work.
- Family members, trusted neighbors, or friends may be home when you are not.
- Consider asking them to accept packages on your behalf or hold them until you arrive.

Identity Theft a Growing Epidemic

- Get a FREE annual credit report: www.annualcreditreport.com Check and review your credit report. Report any discrepancies to the credit reporting agency. Put an alert on your credit if necessary.
- Stop prescreened credit card offers coming to your home: www.optoutprescreen.com or call **1-888-5-OPTOUT**.
- Stop tele-marketing calls: www.donotcall.gov
- Stop receiving unwanted catalogs and other telemarketing mail: www.dmachoice.org
- Shred your old credit card, bank statements, bills, etc. to avoid dumpster diving. For more information on ID Theft or what to do if you are a victim, please go to www.ftc.com/idtheft

Identity Theft

- **Do not give out personal information via email.** Social engineering is the process of deceiving individuals into providing personal information to seemingly trusted agents who turn out to be malicious actors.
- **Always verify the authenticity of requests from companies or individuals by contacting them directly.** If you are asked to provide personal information via email, you should independently contact the company directly to verify this request.
- **Be suspicious of unknown links or requests sent via email or text message.** Do not click on unknown links or answer strange questions sent to your mobile device, regardless of who the sender appears to be.
- **Look at the email address that has sent you the offer.** Does it match the name they are providing?

Driving Safely

- Keep your car in good running condition. Make sure there's enough gas to get where you're going and back.
- Turn the ignition off and take your car keys with you, even if you just running inside for a minute.
- Roll up the windows and lock car doors, even if you're coming right back. Check inside and out before getting in.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. If you are uncomfortable, ask a security guard or store staff to watch you or escort you to your car.
- Drive to the nearest gas station, open business, or other well-lit, crowded area to get help if you think you are being followed. Don't head home.
- Use your cellular phone, if you have one, to call the police if you are being followed or you've seen an accident. Otherwise, stay off your cellular phone while you are driving.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers. Don't hitchhike.

Holiday Safety Reminders

- **Don't shop 'til you drop:**
- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park your car in a well-lighted area; close the windows and lock the door.
- Don't leave packages and boxes visible through car windows. Lock them in the trunk or take them directly home.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with debit, or credit cards whenever possible.
- Don't get overburdened with packages; always keep one hand free. Don't leave your packages unattended; thieves are always looking for unattended packages and shopping bags.
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside coat pocket.
- **When shopping online, use common sense to protect against fraud or ID theft:**
- Familiarize yourself with the rules and policies of online stores and auction sites.
- Only shop with companies you know and make sure that the sites comply with industry security standards.
- Keep your personal information private and keep your passwords secure. Do not respond to requests for a password or credit card information unless you initiate the transaction.
- If you're not going to be home to accept the delivery, USPS, UPS Fed Ex and other package delivery providers offer alternatives that prevent your packages from being left unattended. Lockboxes and secure alternative retail locations are just a couple of options. Visit your courier's website for more details.

Car Burglaries

- **Car Burglaries**
- **Tips on how to avoid car break-ins:**
- Do not leave valuables in plain view: (GPS devices, lap tops, PDA's, cell phones, MP3's, wallets, purses)
- Do not leave windows or sunroof open.
- Do not leave doors unlocked.
- Do not leave keys in the vehicle.
- Do not leave the garage door opener in plain view.
- Do not leave out items with personal information.
- Do not move valuable items to the trunk while in public view.