

SHOPRITE Checkers



AGAINST CRIME TOGETHER

“Build a Safer South Africa”

CRIME PREVENTION / REACTION TIPS



SAFETY AT HOME

Preventing housebreaking and theft:

- Know all emergency numbers.
- Keep your cellphone in the bedroom.
- Never leave keys in a gate or lock.
- The locks on outside doors should be changed when you move into a new home or after keys have been lost or stolen.
- Make provision for good outside lighting. Remember - outside lights that are on during the day draw the attention of thieves.
- Mail left in the gate is also a sign that nobody is home. Get a friend or neighbour to keep a regular eye on your property and to remove mail and newspapers.
- Use lighting to your advantage:
 - Lights that are on inside while it is dark outside put you at a disadvantage.
 - Lights that are on outside when it is dark inside allow you to observe what is going on without being seen yourself.
- Curtains should be closed after dark to prevent suspects from observing the activities inside the home.
- Never leave workers or contractors unattended in your home.

- Do not leave ladders standing around.
- **Conduct thorough background checks before employing anyone (permanent or casual workers). Request their identity document and make a copy for safekeeping. Check their references and do security clearances at the police.**
- Be careful what is discussed in front of staff.
- Don't leave your garage, front or back door open or partially open - it serves as an invitation to burglars.
- **Inform police of any suspicious characters who you consider to pose a threat.**

If your house has been broken into:

- Contact your nearest police station immediately.
- Wait until fingerprints and statements have been taken before touching anything.
- Unless it is absolutely necessary don't allow private security company personnel to enter the house or touch anything before the police have investigated the scene.
- Look for strange footprints in the garden and point them out to the police.
- A list of the make, model and serial numbers of electrical appliances and other valuable equipment should always be available for investigation purposes.

SAFETY AT BUSINESS PREMISES

Preventing a robbery at business premises:

- Employ surveillance cameras strategically and implement some form of entrance and exit control. Make sure persons can be clearly identified by the cameras as the video footage assists the SAPS with their investigation.
- Keep the premises well-illuminated, both inside and out.
- Take special precautionary measures at opening and closing times. Ensure that 2 or more staff members can be present when the premises is being locked or unlocked.
- Place static panic buttons in strategic areas of your store, e.g. in the cash office or strong room.

Guidelines on what to do during armed robberies:

The likelihood of an armed robbery turning violent at places like a shopping centre, store, warehouse, factory, distribution centre, etc., (which may result in injuries to personnel and customers) can be effectively reduced by the behaviour of the victims.

- **DON'T RESIST THE ROBBERS.** Do exactly as you are told. The robbers are in control of the situation because they are armed, and it serves no purpose to resist their instructions - you will only be putting lives at risk.
- **RELAX.** Regulate your breathing, taking long, slow deliberate breaths. This slows your heart rate, and helps you relax.

- **SPEAK SLOWLY.** Don't shout or raise your voice to the robbers. They are probably more nervous than you and it won't take much for them to lose any self-control.
- **DON'T MAKE ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.** When you want to do something - even if it is upon instruction from the robber - tell them what you are doing. For example: "I am going to take the keys out of my pocket now" - and then proceed slowly.
- **DON'T SET OFF THE SIREN.** Activate any alarms only if you can do so secretly and/or without being seen. Many armed robberies have turned violent (with hostages taken) because the audible siren puts the robbers into a panic.
- **DON'T LOOK THE ROBBER DIRECTLY IN THE FACE.** The robber may believe that you are trying to memorise their features for later identification and this could lead to a violent reaction.
- **GIVE THE ROBBERS TIME TO LEAVE.** Don't shout or do anything else until the robbers have left the premises.
- **DON'T TRY TO BE A HERO.** Don't attempt to prevent the robbers' get-away. Many armed robberies have turned violent as the robbers are leaving, resulting in deaths and injuries to staff and customers.

HOW TO SURVIVE A HIJACKING SITUATION

- If confronted by hijackers, the aim is to survive the crime.
- Accept that you are going to lose your vehicle.
- Do not lose your cool and do not threaten or challenge the hijacker.
- Do exactly as told by the hijackers.
- Surrender your vehicle and move away. Remember property can be replaced. Lives cannot.
- Don't reach for your purse or valuables. This may threaten the hijackers and you may get hurt. Leave everything in the vehicle. Remember - the hijackers will be as nervous as you, if not more so.
- Answer any questions truthfully, especially with regard to firearms. If a hijacker finds out or suspects that you have lied, they are more likely to turn violent and do physical harm.
- Even in your shocked and terrified state, try to listen to and understand exactly what the hijackers want from you.
- Try to remain calm at all times and do not show signs of aggression.
- Keep your hands still and visible to the hijacker, to give him or her the assurance that you do not intend fighting back. Whatever movement you make, do it slowly.

- Do not throw away your keys. When requested to hand them over, comply.
- Gather as much information as possible without posing a threat. Note the number of hijackers, what they are wearing, their ages and any facial and physical features. This does not mean staring at your attackers making it obvious that you are looking at ways of identifying them.
- If you have a baby or a pet in the back seat, which they may not have noticed, tell the hijackers.
- Phone the police immediately after the hijackers have left the scene. Note any specific identifying marks on other get-away vehicles used by the hijackers. (If any.)
- Know the full description and registration number of your vehicle and call the SAPS emergency number 10111.
- Stop all bank accounts that may be accessed as a result of the loss of any personal belongings, immediately.
- Blacklist your cellphone and know your IMEI number.
- Report your ID stolen and change the locks to any keys that have been taken.