

NEWS RELEASE

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January 25, 2010

Prosper PD promotes personal safety during 2010

Being aware of surrounding and using common sense top list

PROSPER (January 25, 2010) The Town of Prosper Police Department wants residents to be safe during 2010, and strongly encourages individuals to be prepared for unexpected situations and be constantly aware of surroundings, according to Town of Prosper Police Captain Gary McHone. "First and foremost, everyone needs to use common sense," he said. "Individuals can take a number of simple, logical steps to prevent becoming a target or victim of crime," he added.

The following tips should be followed every day:

While Walking or Jogging Alone

- Do not wear conspicuous jewelry when walking on the streets alone.
- Don't act or look like an easy target; look confident. Most "fights" are won before they start, and aggressors will back down if you maintain eye contact and are not intimidated by them.
- If you have car trouble and are walking to look for help, always walk against the traffic so that you can see what is coming.
- Don't use loud earphones when walking in isolated areas at any time.
- Regularly change your routines.
- Take note of structures at intervals on each of your routes that may be used as "safe houses" in the event of attack. Look for shops or homes that you know to be occupied by friends or acquaintances. Try to incorporate these structures on each of your various routes.
- Be alert at all times.
- Don't presume that because your area has been safe thus far, that it will continue to be so.

While Driving Alone

- You are most vulnerable when stepping out of your car either at home or in isolated areas, and walking to your car.
- Windows should be up and doors locked even when driving to avoid unwanted passengers at intersections.

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- Never leave your car unlocked, even for the few minutes it may take you to pay for gas, buy milk and so forth. Attackers have been known to lie in wait for such an opportunity.
- Never pull your car over in an isolated road even if someone drives alongside your car pointing at the tires, etc. Always continue driving to a well-lit and crowded area before exiting your car. The problem might be a bluff and you could be putting yourself in danger.
- Always be alert in parking lots, especially when it's dark. If you're afraid, don't be shy about asking someone to escort you to your car. Attackers may hide between parked cars and wait until an unsuspecting person comes along.

Prosper Police Officer Erin Hubbard emphasized that the most effective defense against crime is to avoid violence in the first place if possible.

"Most violent situations start with a verbal quarrel. Try to 'cool down' a situation by leaving the home or area," she advised. Also, avoid sharing too much information with strangers. Always think ahead, be prepared, and use common sense, she concluded.

For more information, contact the Prosper Police Department at 972-347-9002.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER—The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."