



DCSafe Community Safety Guidelines Handbook



This handbook is designed to provide you with useful tips and strategies to prevent and deal with various types of crime that may affect you, your loved ones, your friends, and your community. By reading this handbook, you will learn how to increase your awareness and preparedness for crime prevention and safety. This handbook will also help you prepare for the [DCSafe](#) Evaluation Challenge, where you can demonstrate your knowledge and skills and earn the “**DCSafe Recognition Badge**”. Share this handbook with your loved ones and friends and help them stay safe and alert.

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DCSafe Community Safety Guidelines Handbook

This handbook is designed to provide you with some useful tips and strategies to prevent and deal with various types of crime that may occur in your community. The handbook covers nine common crime types: assault with a dangerous weapon, theft/other, theft from auto, motor vehicle theft, robbery, burglary, homicide, sex abuse, and arson. For each crime type, you will find the following information:

What is it: A brief definition and explanation of the crime type.

How it occurs: A description of how the crime typically happens, and what kind of weapon or tool the attacker may use.

What the attacker wants/targets: A summary of what the attacker is looking for or trying to achieve by committing the crime.

How to be safe: A list of recommendations for preventing or responding to the crime during different times of the day (day, evening, and midnight).

I hope that this handbook will help you increase your awareness and preparedness for crime prevention and safety. Remember, if you witness or experience a crime, always call 911 and report it to the police.

1. Assault with a Dangerous Weapon

1.1. What is it

Assault with a dangerous weapon is a violent crime that involves attacking or threatening another person with an object that can cause serious injury or death, such as a gun, knife, bat, or bottle.

1.2. How it occurs

Assault with a dangerous weapon can occur in various situations and locations, such as on the street, in a park, in a bar, or in a home. The attacker may be a stranger or someone you know. The attacker may have a motive, such as robbery, revenge, or hate, or may act impulsively or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.









1.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The attacker may want to harm or kill you, or to intimidate or scare you into giving up your money, valuables, or personal information. The attacker may also target you because of your race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or other characteristics.

1.4. How to be safe

To be safe from assault with a dangerous weapon, follow these tips:

1.4.1. Day

-  Avoid walking alone during the day. Always try to walk in groups or with at least one other person.
-  Watch out for any potential dangers. Pay attention to your surroundings.
-  Call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious. It's better to be safe than sorry.
-  Don't flaunt expensive jewelry or electronics. They can attract unwanted attention.
-  Use ATMs in busy, well-lit locations. Avoid isolated or poorly lit ATMs.
-  Walk confidently and purposefully. Attackers might avoid you if you move fast and keep your head up.
-  Walk with a friend. Attackers are less likely to approach you if you're not alone.
-  Stay in bright areas. Don't go through any dark alleys or side streets.

- ✚ Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.
- ✚ Stay on the sidewalk if possible. Move closer to the curb as you walk. This way, you're less likely to be surprised by an attacker hiding nearby.

1.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible during the evening. Avoid walking alone.
- ✚ Watch out for any potential dangers. Pay attention to your surroundings.
- ✚ Call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Don't flaunt expensive jewelry or electronics. They can attract unwanted attention.
- ✚ Use ATMs in busy, well-lit locations. Avoid isolated or poorly lit ATMs.
- ✚ Walk confidently and purposefully. Attackers might avoid you if you move fast and keep your head up.
- ✚ Walk with a friend. Attackers are less likely to approach you if you're not alone.
- ✚ Stay in bright areas. Don't go through any dark alleys or side streets.
- ✚ Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.
- ✚ Stay on the sidewalk if possible. Move closer to the curb as you walk. This way, you're less likely to be surprised by an attacker hiding nearby.

1.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back during midnight. Avoid walking alone.
- ✚ Watch out for any potential dangers. Stay alert and mindful of your environment.
- ✚ Call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Don't flaunt expensive jewelry or electronics. They can attract unwanted attention.
- ✚ Don't use ATMs at night, especially if you see people loitering nearby.

- ✚ Don't wear headphones at night. It's important to hear all sounds around you.
- ✚ Assume that any firearm is loaded.
- ✚ Be sure of your target and what is behind it.
- ✚ Know the signs and speak up. Recognize when someone is more likely to commit violence.
- ✚ Stop stigmatizing mental health. Create a culture that makes it easier to get help for feelings of anger, isolation, or depression.

2. Theft/Other

2.1. What is it

Theft/other is a property crime that involves taking someone else's money or property without their consent, but without using force or violence. Examples of theft/other include shoplifting, pickpocketing, purse snatching, bicycle theft, and identity theft.

2.2. How it occurs

Theft/other can occur in various situations and locations, such as in stores, restaurants, public transportation, parks, or online. The thief may be a stranger or someone you know. The thief may act alone or in a group. The thief may use distraction, deception, or stealth to commit the theft.







2.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The thief may want to steal your money, valuables, personal information, or identity. The thief may also target you because of your vulnerability, carelessness, or lack of attention.

2.4. How to be safe

To be safe from theft/other, follow these tips:

2.4.1. Day

-  Keep your valuables close to you and out of sight during the day. Don't leave them unattended or in plain view.
-  Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to who and what is around you.
-  Report any suspicious activity to the police. If you see something, say something.
-  Don't carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Use cards instead of cash whenever possible.
-  Secure your wallet or purse. Keep it in your front pocket or hold it close to your body.
-  Protect your personal information. Don't share it with strangers or on social media. Use secure passwords and encryption for your online accounts.

- ✚ Register your bicycle with the police. Use a sturdy lock and chain to secure it to a fixed object.
- ✚ Check your credit reports regularly. Monitor your bank statements and credit card bills for any unauthorized charges.

2.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Keep your valuables close to you and out of sight during the evening. Try to stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Be aware of your surroundings. Keep an eye out for any potential dangers.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Don't carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Use cards instead of cash whenever possible.
- ✚ Secure your wallet or purse. Keep it in your front pocket or hold it close to your body.
- ✚ Protect your personal information. Don't share it with strangers or on social media. Use secure passwords and encryption for your online accounts.
- ✚ Register your bicycle with the police. Use a sturdy lock and chain to secure it to a fixed object.
- ✚ Check your credit reports regularly. Monitor your bank statements and credit card bills for any unauthorized charges.

2.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Keep your valuables close to you and out of sight during midnight. If you have to travel, try to stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Be aware of your surroundings. Stay alert and mindful of your environment.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Don't carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Use cards instead of cash whenever possible.
- ✚ Secure your wallet or purse. Keep it in your front pocket or hold it close to your body.

- ✚ Protect your personal information. Don't share it with strangers or on social media. Use secure passwords and encryption for your online accounts.
- ✚ Register your bicycle with the police. Use a sturdy lock and chain to secure it to a fixed object.
- ✚ Check your credit reports regularly. Monitor your bank statements and credit card bills for any unauthorized charges.

3. Theft from Auto

3.1. What is it

Theft from auto is a property crime that involves stealing items from a parked or unattended vehicle, such as a car, truck, van, or motorcycle.

3.2. How it occurs

Theft from auto can occur in various situations and locations, such as in parking lots, garages, driveways, streets, or highways. The thief may be a stranger or someone you know. The thief may use tools, such as a screwdriver, crowbar, or glass cutter, to break into the vehicle.








3.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The thief may want to steal anything of value from the vehicle, such as money, electronics, tools, clothing, documents, or registration plates.

3.4. How to be safe

To be safe from theft from auto, follow these tips:

3.4.1. Day

-  Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you during the day. Don't leave them inside the vehicle or hide them under the mat or wheel well.
-  Park in well-lit and populated areas whenever possible. Avoid isolated or poorly lit areas.
-  Report any suspicious activity to the police. If you see something, say something.
-  Don't leave any valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. Put them in the trunk, glove compartment, or under the seat.
-  Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or tracking devices. These can deter thieves or help recover your vehicle if stolen.
-  Don't leave your windows open or your sunroof unlocked. These can provide easy access for thieves.
-  Don't leave your registration or insurance papers in your vehicle. These can be used to identify you or sell your vehicle.

- ✚ Etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, and fenders. This can make it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or its parts.

3.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you during the evening. Try to park in well-lit and populated areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Don't leave any valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. Put them in the trunk, glove compartment, or under the seat.
- ✚ Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or tracking devices. These can deter thieves or help recover your vehicle if stolen.
- ✚ Don't leave your windows open or your sunroof unlocked. These can provide easy access for thieves.
- ✚ Don't leave your registration or insurance papers in your vehicle. These can be used to identify you or sell your vehicle.
- ✚ Etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, and fenders. This can make it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or its parts.

3.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you during midnight. If you have to travel, try to park in well-lit and populated areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Don't leave any valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. Put them in the trunk, glove compartment, or under the seat.
- ✚ Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or tracking devices. These can deter thieves or help recover your vehicle if stolen.
- ✚ Don't leave your windows open or your sunroof unlocked. These can provide easy access for thieves.

- ✚ Don't leave your registration or insurance papers in your vehicle. These can be used to identify you or sell your vehicle.
- ✚ Etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, and fenders. This can make it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or its parts.

4. Motor Vehicle Theft

4.1. What is it

Motor vehicle theft is a property crime that involves stealing or attempting to steal a car, truck, motorcycle, or other motorized vehicle.

4.2. How it occurs

Motor vehicle theft can occur in various situations and locations, such as in parking lots, garages, driveways, streets, or highways. The thief may be a stranger or someone you know. The thief may use tools, such as a screwdriver, crowbar, or slim jim, to break into the vehicle. The thief may also use a device, such as a scanner, jammer, or relay, to intercept or block the signal from your key fob or smart key.







4.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The thief may want to steal your vehicle for various reasons, such as to sell it or its parts, to use it for joyriding or committing other crimes, to transport illegal goods or people, or to demand a ransom.

4.4. How to be safe

To be safe from motor vehicle theft, follow these tips:

4.4.1. Day

-  Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you during the day. Don't leave them inside the vehicle or hide them under the mat or wheel well.
-  Park in well-lit and populated areas whenever possible. Avoid isolated or poorly lit areas.
-  Report any suspicious activity to the police. If you see something, say something.
-  Don't leave any valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. Put them in the trunk, glove compartment, or under the seat.
-  Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or tracking devices. These can deter thieves or help recover your vehicle if stolen.
-  Don't leave your windows open or your sunroof unlocked. These can provide easy access for thieves.

- ✚ Don't leave your registration or insurance papers in your vehicle. These can be used to identify you or sell your vehicle.
- ✚ Etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, and fenders. This can make it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or its parts.

4.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you during the evening. Try to park in well-lit and populated areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Don't leave any valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. Put them in the trunk, glove compartment, or under the seat.
- ✚ Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or tracking devices. These can deter thieves or help recover your vehicle if stolen.
- ✚ Don't leave your windows open or your sunroof unlocked. These can provide easy access for thieves.
- ✚ Don't leave your registration or insurance papers in your vehicle. These can be used to identify you or sell your vehicle.
- ✚ Etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, and fenders. This can make it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or its parts.

4.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Lock your vehicle and take the keys with you during midnight. If you have to travel, try to park in well-lit and populated areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Don't leave any valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. Put them in the trunk, glove compartment, or under the seat.
- ✚ Use anti-theft devices, such as steering wheel locks, alarm systems, or tracking devices. These can deter thieves or help recover your vehicle if stolen.

- ✚ Don't leave your windows open or your sunroof unlocked. These can provide easy access for thieves.
- ✚ Don't leave your registration or insurance papers in your vehicle. These can be used to identify you or sell your vehicle.
- ✚ Etch your vehicle identification number (VIN) on the windows, doors, and fenders. This can make it harder for thieves to resell your vehicle or its parts.

5. Robbery

5.1. What is it

Robbery is a violent crime that involves taking someone else's money or property by force or threat of force. Examples of robbery include mugging, bank robbery, carjacking, or home invasion.

5.2. How it occurs

Robbery can occur in various situations and locations, such as on the street, in a store, in a vehicle, or in a home. The robber may be a stranger or someone you know. The robber may act alone or in a group. The robber may use a weapon, such as a gun, knife, or bat, to intimidate or harm you.








5.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The robber may want to steal your money, valuables, personal information, or vehicle. The robber may also target you because of your vulnerability, carelessness, or lack of attention.

5.4. How to be safe

To be safe from robbery, follow these tips:

5.4.1. Day

-  Avoid walking alone during the day. Always try to walk in groups or with at least one other person.
-  Watch out for any potential dangers. Pay attention to your surroundings.
-  Call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious. It's better to be safe than sorry.
-  Don't carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Use cards instead of cash whenever possible.
-  Secure your wallet or purse. Keep it in your front pocket or hold it close to your body.
-  Protect your personal information. Don't share it with strangers or on social media. Use secure passwords and encryption for your online accounts.
-  Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.

- ✚ Stay on the sidewalk if possible. Move closer to the curb as you walk. This way, you're less likely to be surprised by a robber hiding nearby.
- ✚ Don't resist if confronted by a robber. Give up your money or valuables and try to get away safely.

5.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Stay in well-lit and populated areas as much as possible during the evening. Avoid walking alone.
- ✚ Watch out for any potential dangers. Pay attention to your surroundings.
- ✚ Call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Don't carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Use cards instead of cash whenever possible.
- ✚ Secure your wallet or purse. Keep it in your front pocket or hold it close to your body.
- ✚ Protect your personal information. Don't share it with strangers or on social media. Use secure passwords and encryption for your online accounts.
- ✚ Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.
- ✚ Stay on the sidewalk if possible. Move closer to the curb as you walk. This way, you're less likely to be surprised by a robber hiding nearby.
- ✚ Don't resist if confronted by a robber. Give up your money or valuables and try to get away safely.

5.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back during midnight. Avoid walking alone.
- ✚ Watch out for any potential dangers. Stay alert and mindful of your environment.
- ✚ Call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Don't carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Use cards instead of cash whenever possible.

- ✚ Secure your wallet or purse. Keep it in your front pocket or hold it close to your body.
- ✚ Protect your personal information. Don't share it with strangers or on social media. Use secure passwords and encryption for your online accounts.
- ✚ Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.
- ✚ Stay on the sidewalk if possible. Move closer to the curb as you walk. This way, you're less likely to be surprised by a robber hiding nearby.
- ✚ Don't resist if confronted by a robber. Give up your money or valuables and try to get away safely.

6. Burglary

6.1. What is it

Burglary is a property crime that involves breaking into and entering a building with the intent to commit a crime inside, such as theft, vandalism, or assault.

6.2. How it occurs

Burglary can occur in various situations and locations, such as in homes, businesses, schools, or churches. The burglar may be a stranger or someone you know. The burglar may act alone or in a group. The burglar may use tools, such as a screwdriver, crowbar, or lock pick, to break into the building.










6.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The burglar may want to steal anything of value from the building, such as money, electronics, jewelry, documents, or firearms.

6.4. How to be safe

To be safe from burglary, follow these tips:

6.4.1. Day

-  Lock your home with high-quality locks and alarms during the day. A home security system can deter burglars.
-  Hide your valuables. Don't leave expensive items where they can be seen from windows.
-  Report any suspicious activity to the police. If you see something, say something.
-  Join a neighborhood watch. This can be an effective way to prevent burglaries.
-  Don't let mail or deliveries pile up. This can indicate that the house is empty.
-  Break down boxes for new purchases. Don't leave them on the curb where they can advertise your valuables.
-  Close your windows fully. This can prevent a thief from opening the door from inside.
-  Don't leave your car running and unattended.
-  Don't leave valuables in your car.

- ✚ Put valuables in your trunk before you arrive at your destination.

6.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Lock your home with high-quality locks and alarms during the evening. Use timers to turn lights and radios on and off when you're away.
- ✚ Hide your valuables. Use a safe for particularly valuable items.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Join a neighborhood watch. These programs can be especially effective in the evenings when many people are home.
- ✚ Don't let mail or deliveries pile up. Ask a neighbor to collect them for you if you're gone.
- ✚ Break down boxes for new purchases. Don't leave them on the curb where they can attract burglars.
- ✚ Install outdoor lighting. Use motion-activated lights near entrances.
- ✚ Trim trees and shrubs near windows and entrances. These can provide hiding places for burglars.
- ✚ Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- ✚ Secure air conditioning units and windows. These can provide easy access for a burglar.

6.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Lock your home with high-quality locks and alarms during midnight. Check all doors and windows before you go to bed.
- ✚ Hide your valuables. Don't leave valuable items in places where they can be seen from outside.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Join a neighborhood watch. These programs can be especially effective at night when many people are asleep.
- ✚ Don't let mail or deliveries pile up. This can indicate that the house is empty.
- ✚ Break down boxes for new purchases. Don't leave them on the curb where they can attract burglars.
- ✚ Don't wear headphones at night. It's important to hear all sounds around you.

- ✚ Assume that any firearm is loaded.
- ✚ Be sure of your target and what is behind it.
- ✚ Know the signs and speak up. Recognize when someone is more likely to commit violence.

7. Homicide

7.1. What is it

Homicide is a violent crime that involves killing or attempting to kill another person, either intentionally or unintentionally.

7.2. How it occurs

Homicide can occur in various situations and locations, such as on the street, in a park, in a bar, or in a home. The killer may be a stranger or someone you know. The killer may act alone or in a group. The killer may use a weapon, such as a gun, knife, bat, or bottle, to harm or kill you.











7.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The killer may want to harm or kill you for various reasons, such as robbery, revenge, hate, jealousy, or rage. The killer may also target you because of your race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or other characteristics.

7.4. How to be safe

To be safe from homicide, follow these tips:

7.4.1. Day

-  Avoid walking alone during the day. Always try to walk in groups or with at least one other person.
-  Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to who and what is around you.
-  Report any suspicious activity to the police. If you see something, say something.
-  Avoid conflicts and confrontations. Try to de-escalate situations and walk away from potential fights.
-  Stay in populated areas. There is safety in numbers.
-  Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.
-  Prepare your schedule daily with safety in mind.
-  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.

7.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Stay away from dangerous areas during the evening. If you have to travel, try to stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Be aware of your surroundings. Keep an eye out for any potential dangers.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Avoid conflicts and confrontations. If a situation seems like it could escalate into violence, try to leave if possible.
- ✚ Stay in populated areas. There is safety in numbers.
- ✚ Be alert for any suspicious behavior. Keep your wits about you and notice your surroundings and the people nearby.
- ✚ Prepare your schedule daily with safety in mind.
- ✚ 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.

7.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Stay away from dangerous areas during midnight. If you have to travel, try to stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Be aware of your surroundings. Stay alert and mindful of your environment.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Avoid conflicts and confrontations. If a situation seems like it could escalate into violence, try to leave if possible.
- ✚ Stay in populated areas. There is safety in numbers.
- ✚ Don't wear headphones at night. It's important to hear all sounds around you.
- ✚ Assume that any firearm is loaded.
- ✚ Be sure of your target and what is behind it.
- ✚ Know the signs and speak up. Recognize when someone is more likely to commit violence.
- ✚ Stop stigmatizing mental health. Create a culture that makes it easier to get help for feelings of anger, isolation, or depression.

8. Sex Abuse

8.1. What is it

Sex abuse is a violent crime that involves forcing or coercing another person into unwanted sexual contact or activity, such as rape, molestation, or harassment.

8.2. How it occurs

Sex abuse can occur in various situations and locations, such as on the street, in a park, in a bar, or in a home. The abuser may be a stranger or someone you know. The abuser may act alone or in a group. The abuser may use physical force, threats, drugs, alcohol, or manipulation to commit the abuse.











8.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The abuser may want to exert power and control over you, or to satisfy their sexual desires or fantasies. The abuser may also target you because of your vulnerability, carelessness, or lack of attention.

8.4. How to be safe

To be safe from sex abuse, follow these tips:

8.4.1. Day

-  Avoid walking alone during the day. Always try to walk in groups or with at least one other person.
-  Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to who and what is around you.
-  Report any suspicious activity to the police. If you see something, say something.
-  Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, it probably is.
-  Stay in populated areas. Avoid deserted streets and overgrown paths.
-  Maintain distance and avoid getting backed up against a wall.
-  Plan your escape route and take off restrictive items like heels to make it easier to run.
-  Only carry a weapon if you're trained to use it.
-  Carry pepper spray.
-  Keep your keys laced between your fingers.

8.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Avoid walking alone during the evening. Try to stay in well-lit areas as much as possible.
- ✚ Be aware of your surroundings. Keep an eye out for any potential dangers.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, it probably is.
- ✚ Stay in populated areas. There is safety in numbers.
- ✚ De-escalate if possible. Try to calm the situation down without resorting to violence.
- ✚ Remove potential weapons. Don't have anything that could be turned into a weapon within easy reach of an attacker.
- ✚ Always hand a firearm to someone unloaded.
- ✚ Use the proper ammunition.
- ✚ Wear ear and eye protection.

8.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Avoid walking alone during midnight. If you have to, make sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.
- ✚ Be aware of your surroundings. Stay alert and mindful of your environment.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong, it probably is.
- ✚ Stay in populated areas. Try to avoid dark alleys or empty parking lots.
- ✚ Don't wear headphones at night. It's important to be aware of all sounds around you.
- ✚ Assume that any firearm is loaded.
- ✚ Be sure of your target and what is behind it.
- ✚ Know the signs and speak up. Recognize when someone is more likely to commit violence.
- ✚ Stop stigmatizing mental health. Create a culture that makes it easier to get help for feelings of anger, isolation, or depression.

9. Arson

9.1. What is it

Arson is a property crime that involves setting fire to or causing an explosion in a building or other property, either intentionally or recklessly.

9.2. How it occurs

Arson can occur in various situations and locations, such as in homes, businesses, schools, or churches. The arsonist may be a stranger or someone you know. The arsonist may act alone or in a group. The arsonist may use tools, such as matches, lighters, gasoline, or fireworks, to start or spread the fire.









9.3. What the attacker wants/targets

The arsonist may want to cause damage, destruction, or harm to the property or its occupants, or to collect insurance money or cover up evidence of another crime.

9.4. How to be safe

To be safe from arson, follow these tips:

9.4.1. Day

-  Install smoke alarms in your home during the day. Regularly check them to ensure they are working properly.
-  Don't leave flammable materials unattended. Store them in a safe and secure location away from heat sources.
-  Report any suspicious activity to police. If you see something, say something.
-  Keep fire extinguishers handy. Make sure everyone in your home knows how to use them.
-  Regularly check wiring and electrical appliances. Faulty wiring can often lead to fires.
-  Install outdoor lighting, including motion sensor lights, on all sides of your property.
-  Keep garbage, litter, leaves, firewood, overgrown brush and shrubbery, and other combustibles away from buildings.
-  Lock all doors and windows in garages, sheds, cars and unoccupied buildings.

- ✚ Board up and secure unused or derelict buildings.
- ✚ Fit a metal container to the inside of your letterbox to contain fire started by lit materials which may be posted.

9.4.2. Evening

- ✚ Install smoke alarms in your home during the evening. Regularly check them to ensure they are working properly.
- ✚ Don't leave flammable materials unattended. Store them in a safe and secure location away from heat sources.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to police. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- ✚ Keep fire extinguishers handy. Make sure everyone in your home knows how to use them.
- ✚ Regularly check wiring and electrical appliances. Faulty wiring can often lead to fires.
- ✚ Install outdoor lighting, including motion sensor lights, on all sides of your property.
- ✚ Keep garbage, litter, leaves, firewood, overgrown brush and shrubbery, and other combustibles away from buildings.
- ✚ Lock all doors and windows in garages, sheds, cars and unoccupied buildings.
- ✚ Board up and secure unused or derelict buildings.
- ✚ Fit a metal container to the inside of your letterbox to contain fire started by lit materials which may be posted.

9.4.3. Midnight

- ✚ Install smoke alarms in your home during midnight. Regularly check them to ensure they are working properly.
- ✚ Do not leave flammable materials unattended. Store them in a safe and secure location away from heat sources.
- ✚ Report any suspicious activity to the police. Your safety is paramount.
- ✚ Keep fire extinguishers handy. Make sure everyone in your home knows how to use them.
- ✚ Regularly check wiring and electrical appliances. Faulty wiring can often cause fires.
- ✚ Install outdoor lighting, including motion sensor lights, on all sides of your property.

- ✚ Keep garbage, litter, leaves, firewood, overgrown brush and shrubbery, and other combustibles away from buildings.
- ✚ Lock all doors and windows in garages, sheds, cars and unoccupied buildings.
- ✚ Board up and secure unused or derelict buildings.
- ✚ Fit a metal container to your letterbox. This can prevent fire started by lit materials posted through your door.



**DCSafe: “Your safety
partner in the capital!”**