

URBAN CRIME DISASTER RESPONSE

Background:

According to [Uniform Crime Report](#) statistics compiled by the FBI, there were 1,437.7 violent crimes per 100,000 people reported in the District of Columbia in 2008. Also in 2008, there were 5,104.6 property crimes per 100,000 reported during the same period. Overall, violent crime in the District of Columbia has decreased 46% since 1995 and property crime has decreased 46.3% during the same period.

Preventing Urban Crime:

- Always roll up the windows, lock all doors and take valuables with you or move valuables out of plain view when leaving your vehicle unattended.
- Always lock your home door, whether at home or away.
- If you are leaving town, temporarily suspend mail and newspaper delivery or have someone you trust to pick it up daily.
- At night, try to stay near well-lit areas and avoid dark alleys, entrances and street corners.
- Have your car or home key in your hand prior to reaching the door.
- Be aware of your surroundings; note the locations of nearby police stations.
- If you live in an apartment, never buzz people into your building that you do not recognize.
- Always look through the peephole before opening your front door. DO NOT open if you don't know who it is, even if you have the security chain on.
- If an unexpected delivery or service call arrives at your door, get their name and call their employer to verify the identity and reason for the unexpected visit.
- If you come home to find the door or window open, DO NOT ENTER--call the police immediately.
- During a robbery, remember that your life is more valuable than any cash, jewelry or valuable that is being taken.
- If you were a victim of a violent crime and have been injured, seek immediate medical attention.
- If sexually assaulted, preserve all physical evidence. Do not change clothes, bathe or wash, eat, drink or smoke, brush your teeth or use the bathroom. Do not throw anything away until the police or counselor says it's okay.
- Sexually assaulted victims should seek medical care from their doctor or the nearest emergency room immediately. Victims should also call the police at 9-1-1 or the D.C. Rape Crisis Center at 202-333-7273.
- If your vehicle is stolen, immediately report the theft to the Metropolitan Police Department. Provide police the year, make, model, color and VIN number of the stolen vehicle.

