



Community Organization, Inc.

How to decrease the likelihood of being a robbery victim

- A traffic light is a good visual of how alert you should be in public and private places
 - Green:
 - You are relaxed and not particularly aware of your surroundings
 - Example: Sitting in your den or living room with the house locked up watching a Ravens or Orioles game.
 - Yellow:
 - You are alert and aware of your surroundings. You know who is in front, beside, and behind you.
 - ***You should be at this state of alertness whenever you leave your home***
 - You cannot be at this state of alertness if you are talking on a cell phone or listening to an I-Pod, as you are concentrating on your conversation or the music and not your surroundings. Also both cell phones and I-Pods are items often stolen by thieves.
 - Red: You are in a high state of alertness your adrenalin is flowing
 - Your adrenaline is pumping. You are very alert.
 - You would be at this state of alertness whenever you are under attack or afraid.
- Other robbery prevention tips
 - Try to shop, go out in the evenings, or attend events with friends.
 - Criminals are less likely to commit a crime amongst a group of people.
 - Try to move about in well lighted areas.
 - As you approach someone look them in the eye and say hello. This tells the person I see you and I can describe you later if I need to.
 - Be aware of your surroundings, and if you become suspicious of someone seek a safe haven in a public area, business, or the home of someone you know.
 - To prevent being a victim of a car jacking, keep your car doors locked when you are operating your car.
- If you are attacked
 - Make every attempt to flee
 - Scream and yell to draw attention to yourself and what is happening
- Pepper Spray
 - People often consider the utilization of pepper spray as a self defense measure
 - Pepper spray can disable an attacker, but if you are not careful in its use, you can disable yourself. If the user is not downwind of the spray, it will be blown back on the user, and it will disable them, making them a more susceptible victim.
 - When considering carrying and using pepper spray, please remember you will have to make decisions, while under significant stress, about aiming it and which way the wind is blowing prior to deploying it.
 - Also consider that any non-lethal weapon can be taken from you by the attacker, and used on you by the perpetrator during the attack