

ROBBERY PREVENTION STRATEGIES



Most strong-arm robberies (or muggings) occur between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Men are more likely to be victims of a strong-arm holdup, while women are more likely to be victims of purse snatching. As the hours of darkness increase with winter, and holiday shopping extends into the evening, the VCU Police recommend the following precautionary measures to reduce the chances of you becoming a robbery victim.

1. Travel populated, well-lighted streets. Avoid walking or parking in shadowed areas. Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car, and remember to glance under it, around it, and in the back seat as you get in.
2. There's safety in numbers! If you must be out at night, arrange to go to class, do errands or go shopping with a companion or two. If you are alone in the VCU area, use the Security Escort Service between the hours of 5 pm and 8 am. Call VCU-WALK (828-9255) for an escort. The service is free. You simply have to present your VCU I.D. card to the responding officer.
3. Avoid displaying, and even carrying, large sums of money in public. Consider debit or credit cards for shopping purchases.
4. Be careful with purses or wallets. Carry a purse close to your person, but do not loop or wrap straps around your body. You could be injured by a purse snatcher. Keep wallets in an inside pocket.
5. If you are confronted, **DO NOT RESIST!** Cooperate. Give the criminal whatever he/she asks for – wallet, keys, jewelry, credit cards, etc. Your life is more valuable than replaceable possessions.
 - Don't make any sudden, unexpected moves. A nervous criminal may think you are reaching for a concealed weapon.
 - If the suspect claims he has a gun, knife, razor, or other weapon in his pocket, never try to force his bluff.
 - Don't try to apprehend the criminal yourself. Concentrate on remembering the suspect's description and notify police as soon as possible.

Call 828-1234 for emergency police assistance at VCU and call 911 in the City of Richmond and surrounding metropolitan counties.