

Tips on Public Safety

In an urban environment, crime is a fact of life. Your effort to avoid becoming a victim is a large step towards beating the odds of victimization. Alertness, confidence, and trust in your instincts are your best resources. We have a few tips on personal safety for you:

At Erikson

1. In the event of an emergency, you can call 911 from any phone in the building. Emergency response personnel will know your location by the phone extension. You can also call 7202 or 0 to reach the security desk or the operator. Let us know about suspicious individuals or activity. Please report any and all crime.
2. Thieves are looking for an opportunity. Don't be an easy prey. Leaving your valuables unattended even for a short time opens the window of opportunity to the wily. Even though Erikson is a small community and access to our space is controlled, community members should not get too comfortable and forget that valuables, particularly small items, can easily be concealed and lifted.
3. An unlocked and unattended office area is an open invitation for anyone who might wish to take advantage of the situation for undue gain. Double check your lock on the way out.
4. Study in open areas around other people. An isolated, empty classroom might be quiet but it is not as safe and secure as a general area.
5. Erikson provides lockers for you by students and visitors, located on the 3rd floor outside the classrooms. Please use them to lock up your valuables.
6. If you are working in your office after normal business hours, let the security officer know where you are working. We will keep an eye out for you.

Out and about in the city

7. Travel with friends. Avoid people on the street who you feel might present a problem.
8. If walking alone, walk with confidence and always keep moving. Don't wear headphones or chat on the phone. Don't carry too many packages. Keep one hand free.
9. Use well lighted walkways, keep your purse under your arm and wallet in your back pocket.
10. Try to carry the minimum of cash and credit cards on your person. If you must use an Automated Teller Machine (ATM), select one located in a busy area.

11. If you participate in evening events at Erikson, walk in groups to the parking garage or public transit.

Driving

12. When driving in the city, drive with your doors locked and windows up. Know in advance where you are going. Use a steering wheel lock or car alarm.
13. Park in well-lighted areas, don't leave packages or items visible within the car and double check your locks. Don't keep things like purses or briefcases on the passenger seat.
14. Always have your keys handy.
15. Check your front and back seat before you get in the car. Don't pick up hitchhikers.
16. If a car bumps you from behind, be careful. Stay in your car and wait for the other person to get out of their car. If you sense suspicious behavior, pull away and call the police immediately. Carry a mobile phone.

Biking

17. If you bike to Erikson, lock your bike on the racks on LaSalle Street. The racks are visible from our lobby's security desk.
18. When taking public transit, choose a seat near the bus driver or train conductor. Avoid isolated bus or train stops. Don't fall asleep! Keep your belongings on your lap.

If attacked

19. If you are physically attacked, kick, punch, pull hair, bite, poke eyes, yell and scream. The point is to either get away FAST or attract the attention of others.
20. No amount of property is as valuable as your life.