Definitions

- **Attacker**: A person who touches and hurts you, or beats you up.
- **Burglar**: A person who steals something from your home.
- **Robber**: A person who steals something from you with force or threat of force.
- **Thief**: A person who steals from you without you knowing.
No one has the right to hurt you. If someone tries to, it should make you angry.

Plan ahead to protect yourself.

Think about crime prevention every day. Practice crime prevention every day.
Do not open the door for anyone you do not know. Have them buzz the apartment which they are visiting, the office or the resident manager.

If someone buzzes your apartment, verify that you know them – walk down to the front door, if necessary.
At Home

- Anyone living alone should use only their first initial and last name in the phone book and on the mailbox.
- The buzzer system should not list your apartment number – just your first initial and last name.

At Home

- Your door should have a deadbolt lock and a high security strike plate.
- Your door should have a peephole.
- Always lock your doors and windows.
Deadbolt Locks

Deadbolt Lock
Visible Address & Eye Viewer

If you suspect your home has been broken into, immediately call 9-1-1 from a neighbor’s home.

Don’t look or go inside until the police say it is safe.
At Home

- Never allow a stranger into your home...even if they claim it’s an emergency and need to use a phone.
- Speak to them through your closed, locked door and offer to make the call for them.

At Home

- Always check the I.D. of anyone coming into your home.
- Invite a friend, staff or neighbor to visit when a repair/service person is in your home.
Never give out your name, address or other personal information to someone who calls you. (Even if they say you’ve won a prize!)

Examples of personal information:
- social security number
- credit card numbers
- your age
- where you work

If someone calls and says dirty or bad things, HANG UP!

Tell staff, a counselor or a parent about the call.
Safety in the Community

Personal Safety

**Goal**: To be alert & observant.
Make crime prevention part of every day.

**Think**: Don’t give anyone a chance to steal from you.
Personal Safety in the Community

- **Goal**: To be alert & observant.
- **Think**: Keep yourself in safe areas.
- **Do**: Use a buddy system.
  - Use well-lighted streets.
  - Use a flashlight if it’s dark.

- **Goal**: To be alert & observant.
- **Don’t**: Give someone a chance to attack you.
- **Do**:
  - Look around you and act confident.
  - Make quick eye contact with people.
  - If you are being followed on foot or someone is making you uncomfortable, get to the nearest public place. Call home, staff, counselor or 911.
Personal Safety in Elevators & Stairwells

**Goal**: Keep yourself in safe areas.

**Do**:  
- In elevators, stand near the control panel.  
- If you don’t feel safe, get out of the elevator, or hit the alarm.  
- In stairwells, don’t stop to talk to people you don’t know.

Personal Safety

**Do**:  
- Carry your wallet in your front pocket  
- Use a belly bag  
- Carry your bag in front of you.

**Don’t**:  
- Set your purse on the floor in restrooms, theaters, restaurants, or other public places.
Personal Safety Out Shopping

- Don’t give anyone a chance to steal from you.
- When you open your wallet, don’t show your money or credit cards.
- Carry your wallet in a front pocket or use a belly bag. Carry your bag or purse in front.
- Make sure it is closed!

Your Money

- **Goal**: To be alert & observant. Make crime prevention part of every day.
- **Think**: You work hard for your money. Don’t let anyone steal or “borrow” it.
- **Do**:  
  - Carry only the amount of money you need for the day.
  - Don’t give your money to others even if they promise to pay it back.
Personal Safety & Transportation

Know the bus schedule so you won’t have to wait alone at the bus stop for a long time.

- Carry the exact change for the bus ride in your hand.
- Use a Stored Value Card to ride the bus - may be purchased at some grocery stores
- Sit in the front of the bus near the driver.

Public Transportation

Richfield Public Safety
In a Vehicle

- While walking to your car, have your key ready in your hand.
- Before getting into a car, look in the back seat to see if someone is hiding there.
- Get into your vehicle and lock the door right away.

In a Vehicle

- Park in a well-lighted area.
- Lock your car...even if you’re just running into the store for a minute.
- Never leave your purse or bag in your car. Place them out of sight or in the trunk.
In a Vehicle

- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up most of the way.
- If someone tries to break into your car, honk your horn repeatedly and try to drive away.
- If you are being followed, don’t drive directly home. Drive to the nearest 24-hour police or fire station, hospital emergency entrance, all-night restaurant or other place where there are people.

In a Vehicle

- If your vehicle breaks down, turn on the flashers, raise the hood or use a “Call Police” sign in the windshield. If someone stops, stay in the vehicle and ask them to call the police.
Goal: To be alert & observant. Make crime prevention part of every day.

Think: What would you do if physically attacked?

Do: Whatever will result in the least amount of harm to yourself!!

Look for a chance to escape.

There is no right or wrong way to react… every situation is different.
In Trouble By Yourself

- If a robber demands your valuables, give them up! Your money and jewelry are not worth your life.
- If someone has a weapon, stay calm.
  
  **DO NOT** get into a vehicle with a robber or attacker!

In Trouble

- Carrying a gun, mace, or any weapon is not a good idea. It can easily be used against you.
- Try to escape ~ IF you have to fight back, mark your assailant with punches, scratches or kicks. The marks can help the police catch the attacker.
If You Are Attacked

- **Do:** What will result in the least amount of harm to yourself!!
- While looking for a chance to escape, look at your attacker...one feature at a time and remember their hair, eyes, eyebrows, nose, moustache, mouth, voice, age, scars, etc.

If You Are Attacked

- As soon as you can, call the police and write down or tell someone everything you can remember your attacker.
- Don’t change your clothing, bathe or apply any medication. You could destroy evidence that can help the police put the attacker in jail.
No one has the right to hurt you. If someone tries to, it should make you angry.

Plan ahead to protect yourself.

Think about crime prevention every day.

Practice crime prevention every day.

Questions?
Please call the Richfield Police Crime Prevention Unit
612/861-9845