Personal Safety

You are encouraged to consider and implement strategies that most suit your needs and your lifestyle. In all situations, if you feel your safety is being threatened, call triple zero (000).

To preserve your safety out and about, consider the following options:

General advice

- Always carry your mobile phone and some form of identification.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Especially when using headphones or speaking on your mobile.
- If a stranger approaches you, use your feelings of safety as a guide. Remove yourself from the situation if you feel unsafe.
- Avoid areas where you do not feel safe, e.g. dark areas. At night, use busy, well-lit streets and avoid short cuts through parks or vacant lots.
- If confronted by a 'flasher' try to avoid acting shocked or upset, instead take a description of the person and report the incident to police.
- If you think you are being followed or in danger, cross the street or try to get the attention of people nearby - shout as loudly as you can or seek help at the nearest house, shop or busy public place.

Protecting your money and valuables

- Keep cash and valuables you carry to a minimum.
- Use a bag that can be secured, e.g. with a zip. Hold it close to you, away from the road.
- Never leave your bag unattended in a public place.
- Avoid leaving your bag in places where it can easily be taken eg. in shopping trolley, back of a chair, under a table in public places etc
- Consider a low credit card limit to avoid large theft if your card is lost or stolen.
- Use ATMs located in public view. Be discreet when entering your personal identification number (PIN).
- If someone tries to take your bag, let it go. Put your safety first. Take note of the appearance of the person and if a vehicle is involved, note down its registration number, make and colour and report to the Police in person or by calling 000.

Online crime

- May include identity theft, online sale fraud, scams, credit card theft or phishing.
- Key prevention tips:
    - Secure your electronic devices and internet connection
    - Install anti-virus, anti-spyware software and use a firewall
    - Exercise caution before sharing sensitive information – *if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is*

Questions:

1. List 3 examples of areas where it could be unsafe.

   _____
   _____
   _____

2. How do you attract attention to get help in a dangerous situation? _____
   _____

3. What do you do if someone tries to steal your bag?

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   _____
   _____

4. How do you avoid being a victim of online crimes?

   _____
   _____
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