

Howard University Safety Tips

Contact the Howard University Department of Public Safety at (202) 806-1100. In the event of an emergency, dial 911 for the Metropolitan Police Department.

General Safety Tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Walk with your head up and remain alert.
- Walk in open, well-lit areas, and take note of others around you. Do not walk while distracted. Avoid activities such as listening to music, texting or talking on a cell phone.
- Travel in groups – remember there is strength in numbers.
- If you are out at night remain vigilant and alert. 70% of all crimes occur after dark. There is no substitute for vigilance when it comes to personal safety.
- Be city smart. Travel in safe, heavily-traversed areas. Stay away from alleys or areas with overgrown vegetation.
- Wear comfortable shoes that allow you to move quickly. Don't carry too many things at one time—it can block your view and make you appear defenseless.
- Drink responsibly. Do not over indulge in alcohol consumption. Never leave your drink unattended. Individuals who are impaired by intoxication make an easier target for criminals.
- Never walk home alone if you are under the influence of alcohol. Do not accept drinks, food, or rides with people you do not know.
- Before going to a party or gathering off campus, tell a friend where you are going and when you will be back. Let them know if your plans change.
- Carry small amounts of cash and personal property such as credit cards, gift cards, or sensitive information. A travel wallet or purse with these minimum items will limit your loss if your property is lost or stolen.
- Always report suspicious persons or activities immediately. Give a thorough physical description including height, weight, hair or eye color, and clothing as well as vehicle make, color, and tag information if possible. The same is true if you are a victim of a crime.
- Trust your instincts! If you sense something is wrong remove yourself from the situation immediately. Most crimes are opportunistic in nature. If you decrease the opportunities you may decrease the chances of becoming a victim.
- Program the following number into your cell phone for quick access: (202) 806-1100.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity or suspicious individuals to the HU Department of Public Safety.
- Use the Shuttle Service or HUDPS Safety Lift to avoid traveling on foot across campus after-hours.