

# Safety

## Personal Safety

Anyone, male or female, is a possible rape victim. In 50% of rapes, the victim and rapist were acquaintances or friends. Educate yourself in rape prevention tactics by being aware of potentially dangerous situations, learning how to avoid them and what to do when you cannot. For information, or if you need help, you can contact the University Health Center at (541) 346-4441, or drop by the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Agate St. where the center is located. For more contact numbers visit this web site <http://www.uoregon.edu/~jocelynh/resourcelist.html>.

## Residential Precautions

When inspecting a housing unit, be sure to check the exterior for adequate lighting in parking areas, pathways, front door and surrounding areas that you may be using. Look at the landscaping. Are trees and shrubbery blocking doors and windows? Could someone hide undetected? Ask what sort of security system is offered.

Check the interior for dead bolt locks. Check for a peephole in the door with a 180-degree view. Make sure sliding doors are secure. Is the front door solid or hollow? For entrance doors use either a dead bolt lock with at least a one-inch throw or if there is a window within reach of the door handle install a metal mesh grill over the glass.

For sliding doors or windows, never rely only on the existing handle locks. Anti-slide block locks plus antitheft locks are much more effective and offer extra security when windows and doors are slightly open or closed. These precautions are inexpensive and can be taken with you if you change residences.

## Common Sense

Make your home appear occupied at all times:

- Leave an interior light on a timer to come on at night when you are not home.
- Never leave notes indicating that you are not home.
- Leave a radio or TV on while you are gone.
- Invest in dusk-to-dawn lights for the exterior.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries when you will be out of town.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine that you aren't at home and never leave sexually suggestive messages.

Never open your door to anyone until the person has identified him or herself:

- Always use the peephole when answering the door.
- If it is a repairman, call the company to verify his position before opening the door. Never leave the repairman alone, even for a few minutes.
- Do not let strangers into your house to use the phone. Make the call for them.
- Do not place hidden keys outside your door (intruders know ALL the hiding places).
- Do not attach name or driver's license to a key chain.
- Be careful to whom you give or lend your keys.
- Do not forget to lock up every time you leave your home.

Do not panic if your apartment has been entered! Leave right away in case the intruder's still inside and call the police and property owner. Do not touch or move anything until the police have arrived.

### **Maintaining your Smoke Detector**

Too often the last line in a newspaper story about an apartment fire reads, "The smoke detector did not sound to warn residents of the fire." It's a fact: smoke detectors don't always save lives. If the battery is removed or worn out or a unit is faulty, a detector is useless as fire protection. That's why renters and landlords must be aware of the status of smoke detectors.

- Replace batteries when they are worn and monitor units for defects.
- Legally, landlords have to provide a fire protection system (which could be battery operated units or hardware systems) and have it in working order when you move in. It is the responsibility of the renter to report malfunctions of the fire protection system to the landlord as soon as possible.
- It is recommended that renters check their system once each month.
- If your unit uses batteries, push the test button to ensure it is in working order. If you have the hardware type, be sure to remove dust periodically because this blocks the ability of the system to detect smoke.

### **Safety on Campus**

Your safety and security on and off campus is a priority. Many campus systems are already in place to make U of O a safe place for all students.

- Saferide, Nightride, & Designated Driver Shuttle 346-RIDE
- Fire, Police, Ambulance 346-6666
- Hazardous Material Spill 346-3192

#### **Suicide / Depression / Stress Prevention / Sexual Assault**

- Department of Public Safety 346-5444
- U of O Counseling Center 346-3227
- U of O Crisis Line 346-4468
- Sacred Heart (Emergency) 686-6931
- Student Health Center 346-4441
- Sexual Assault Support Services 485-6700 or 1-800-788-4727