

# SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS

## PERSONAL

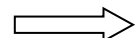
- Make your emergency contact information available to law enforcement. Go to: [www.flhsmv.gov](http://www.flhsmv.gov), select “Emergency Contact Registration, and enter information for two emergency contact people.
- Remove personal/home information from checks, luggage, etc. (use a work address or P.O. Box).
- Destroy (shred) discarded and junk mail.
- Obtain an unlisted phone number. Don’t give personal information to telemarketers, survey takers, etc.
- When walking or jogging - vary your routine and stick to well lit and busy areas.
- Use caution when using any ATM. Avoid displaying large amounts of cash or jewelry.
- Travel in groups whenever possible and always be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- If going out, tell someone you trust where you are going and when you plan to return.
- When using cell phones, headphones, i-pods, etc. – be sure you can hear and are aware of your surroundings. Make sure your cell phone battery is charged.
- When using an elevator - stand near the controls. If someone suspicious enters, get off as soon as possible. Do NOT push the STOP button (you could be trapped in there with the suspicious person).
- Look confident, walk assertively, keep a safe distance, make eye contact, and be aware of your surroundings.
- ***Trust your instincts!***

## CAMPUS

- For emergencies, dial 911 (regardless of the area code of your cell phone, local police will be contacted).
- Know the location of emergency blue light phones throughout campus.
- Fill out a privacy form at the Registrar’s Office.
- Register your bicycle with the University Police Department.
- Never prop open outside Residence Hall doors and keep your room door locked.
- Use the “Bull Runner” shuttle service.
- Register for Mo-Bull (emergency text messaging system) and keep your information up-to-date.
- Keep an eye on your belongings when in class, the library, gyms, and other public places.
- Use the buddy system. If you need to cross campus alone at night, call the “SAFE TEAM”, a free escort service at 974-7233 (SAFE).
- ***Trust your instincts!***

## VEHICLE /DRIVING

- Park vehicles in well-lit areas, lock your doors, and remember to take your keys.
- Do not leave your valuables in your car. Lock items in your trunk where they cannot be seen.
- Do not leave your house and other keys with valets, mechanics, etc. - leave only your car key.
- When you return to your car – have the key ready and look under your car from a distance. Check all areas inside before entering the vehicle. Once in, immediately lock the doors. If confronted, blow your horn to attract attention.
- Get your car serviced regularly. Fill your gas tank during day light hours and keep it at least half full.
- Drive with all the doors locked. If you are being followed, don’t drive home. Go to the nearest police station, fire department, or other safe (and well-populated) location.
- Do not stop to assist stranded motorists (use cellular phone to call for assistance).
- If your car breaks down, do not accept a ride from strangers. Don’t open your car door and only crack a window to ask them to call for help (if you do not have a phone).
- ***Trust your instincts!***



## RESIDENCE

- Keep doors (including garage doors), windows, gates, and fuse boxes locked. If you come home and find something open or signs of a forced entry, do not go in. Go to the nearest place of safety and call 911.
- Install dead bolts on all outside doors and secure sliding glass doors and windows. Replace door locks when moving into a new place, as you don't know who might have keys to the existing lock.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed and make sure exterior lighting is adequate and working.
- Ensure that alarms, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers are installed/available and working.
- For long absences have deliveries, newspapers, and mail put on hold or collected by someone you trust.
- Prepare an emergency evacuation plan (consider ladders or rope for two-story residences).
- Require identification of all repair/sales persons prior to permitting entry into residence.
- Do not give the impression that you live alone and/or are not home on an answering machine.
- ***Trust your instincts!***

## INTERNET/TECHNOLOGY

- Be cautious about how much personal information you are sharing via technology including: texting, social networking, chat-rooms, websites, blogs, e-mail, etc. Once information is sent/posted, it cannot be taken back or completely deleted.
- Only post or send information/pictures that you are comfortable with others seeing, and knowing, about you. The whole world can see this - including your parents, university personnel, the police, employers, etc. Remember, photos can be altered and broadcast in ways you cannot control.
- Utilize security and privacy settings. Use creative/uncommon passwords and keep them private. Regularly update your anti-virus, anti-spyware, and firewalls.
- Be extremely cautious about meeting someone in real life that you met online. Do not assume people you meet virtually are telling the truth.
- If you feel threatened, uncomfortable, or scammed – report it to the appropriate resource (host website, police, federal trade commission, etc.). Keep all documentation related to the incident.
- Google yourself often. Begin by putting your name in quotes (i.e. “John Doe”) and then try other variations of your name (i.e. “John A. Doe”, “john doe”, “john alan doe”, etc.). It is important to be aware of what may be on the internet about you.
- ***Trust your instincts!***

## SOCIAL

- Remember, alcohol, drugs, fatigue, and distractions can diminish your awareness.
- Watch the bartender make your drink; only accept drinks (whether alcoholic or not), food, ice, etc. from people you trust; never drink out of a shared punch bowl.
- Watch your drink and when socializing, casually keep your drink covered with your hand.
- Identify your limits and clearly/firmly state them.
- Be aware of webcams and other technology that may be on and recording in areas (particularly bedrooms) where you socialize.
- Remember, the Designated Driver is not the person who drinks the least amount of alcohol. It's the person who drinks no alcohol (and is not under the influence of any other substance).
- When first dating, find out about the person, only meet in public places, and consider double dating.
- Always go out and come home with a group of trusted friends. Watch out for each other.
- ***Trust your instincts!***

Sources: University of South Florida Police Department and Los Angeles Police Department

**Center for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention**

**Victim Helpline: (813) 974-5757**

[www.sa.usf.edu/advocacy](http://www.sa.usf.edu/advocacy)

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