



## Personal Safety Recommendations

Provided by the Dubuque Police Department

- ✓ Remain constantly aware of your surroundings and report **ALL** suspicious/criminal activity.
- ✓ Call 9-1-1 for emergencies, and 563-589-4415 for less time-sensitive matters.
- ✓ Teach children about “Stranger Danger” and what to do in such situations.
- ✓ Remember there’s always *safety in numbers* – regardless of the activity.
- ✓ Keep your residence and vehicle locked at **ALL** times, even when you’re inside.
- ✓ When stopped in traffic, give yourself plenty of room to drive away if necessary.
- ✓ Limit the items of value you have on your person (cash, credit/debit cards, jewelry, etc.).
- ✓ Horns/alarms, whistles, yelling/screaming, etc. are often productive ways to scare off criminals.
- ✓ Park your vehicle in well-lighted areas with few obstructions around.
- ✓ Have your key(s) ready as you approach your vehicle/residence and be vigilant.
- ✓ If you carry pepper spray or other weaponry, have it ready to use and ensure you retain it.
- ✓ If you chose to defend yourself, be physically and mentally prepared.
- ✓ If you carry/use a weapon, know how to do so safely and proficiently.
- ✓ If a vehicle is following you, drive to a busy/populated location and call/summon help.
- ✓ Do whatever you can to avoid being forced into a vehicle against your will.
- ✓ Do not allow anyone inside your home unless you have verified it’s safe.
- ✓ Never agree to meet someone alone – for a first date, to purchase an item, etc.
- ✓ Do not share your plans via social media, especially plans to be away from home.
- ✓ Mentally and physically prepare yourself for how you’ll respond in an emergency.
- ✓ Do not provide personal information or money unless you’re positive it’s safe and legitimate.

## **Additional Resources**

**Nextdoor.com** – “Virtual neighborhood watch” used by over 17,000 neighborhoods and counting. Connect with one another and help prevent crime. Nextdoor is a free and private social network for neighbors. Neighbors are using Nextdoor to:

- Safely connect with other neighbors: Each neighborhood website is private and secure. Members must verify their address to join.
- Stop crime before it happens: Neighbors can report suspicious activity to one another and send urgent alerts to keep everyone informed.
- Organize and mobilize neighbors: Nextdoor makes it easy to organize neighborhood events and encourage greater participation.

**“Notify Me” service:** Sign up on the City of Dubuque website to be notified of police department news, as well as receive agendas, news releases, event notifications and other timely news. Citizens can receive these notifications via email, text message, or both. To sign up, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/notifyme).

**Home Security Assessment:** Looking for recommendations on making your home safer? Contact Dubuque Police Department’s Crime Prevention Officer to schedule a free Security Assessment: 563-589-4473 or [jmesseri@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:jmesseri@cityofdubuque.org). DPD’s Burglary Prevention Recommendations are available upon request.

**ReportIt.leadsonline.com:** Free, secure, web-based service that allows you to record important information about your valuables (serial numbers, images, etc.).

**Smart911.com:** Free, secure service that allows you to make a safety profile for your phone(s) giving emergency responders important information immediately upon calling 911.

**[www.cityofdubuque.org/police](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/police)** (Submit a Tip, Service Request/Extra Attention, etc.)

**MyDBQ app** (service requests, crime tips)

Remember to remain vigilant at all times and immediately report **ALL** suspicious/criminal activity to law enforcement: 9-1-1 for emergencies and 563-589-4415 for non-emergencies. The latter number should be programed into your cellular phone. Do not assume someone else will call/report and do not think law enforcement is too busy to address your concern.