



PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

# TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION **RISK REMINDER**

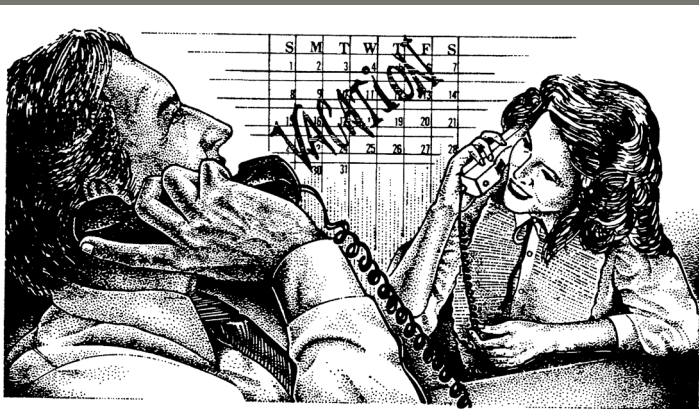
## Assault Prevention

### Personal And Family Safety

While none of us likes to think about the possibility of ourselves or our loved ones being assaulted-robbed, harassed, beaten up, or even raped--our best defense against such horrible crimes is prevention. Self-protection means becoming aware of potentially threatening situations, and knowing how to react if threatened. There are a number of things that you and your family can do to ensure your own personal safety.

### Personal And Family Safety

Making your home as safe as possible is relatively simple, but extremely important. Never leave doors or windows unlocked while you are away from home. Leave lights on (outside and inside) when you know you'll be returning after dark. Never allow a stranger into your home. To avoid forced entry, install a peephole in your door so that you can screen callers before opening your door. Let a friend, neighbor, or local police know if you'll be away from your home for an extended period of time. Cancel newspaper delivery while you're gone and ask someone to pick up your mail. Keep emergency phone numbers posted prominently near telephones where all family members can see them.



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### Safe Neighbors

Many communities have started "neighborhood watch" clubs or block organizations to help one another keep their neighborhoods safe and crime free. These clubs encourage members to keep in touch with one another on a regular basis and to report suspicious persons or activities to their local police. Club meetings may focus on specific aspects of personal safety or ways to improve home security among other topics. If you are interested in starting a neighborhood club in your vicinity, call your local police department for more information.

### Safe Practices

One way to avoid becoming a victim of assault is to avoid acting like a victim. In other words, always be sure of yourself and of your surroundings--especially after dark or when traveling in "dangerous" areas. Carry an emergency whistle on your key chain, and hold it in your hands when walking. Use it if you are threatened--the shrill noise may scare away a potential assailant. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes that will allow you to run if necessary. Don't walk alone--bring along a companion. Carry your purse or briefcase securely, and keep your wallet in an inside pocket. Whenever possible, walk in brightly lit areas--avoid alleys, side streets, and other shortcuts.

**For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (888) 562-7861**

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