

Parking Lot Safety

DEPENDING ON ITS LOCATION, DESIGN, AND THE TIME OF DAY, PARKING LOTS CAN BE RISKY PLACES. HERE ARE SOME BASIC SAFETY PRINCIPLES THAT YOU CAN USE TO BE SAFE WHEN TRAVELING TO AND FROM YOUR CAR.

- Park near the building in a highly visible and well-lit area.
- Use the main building entrance — avoid rear or secluded exits.
- Keep valuables, including purses and recent purchases, out of sight. Always lock them in the trunk if you have to leave them in the car.
- Lock the doors and roll up windows once you are in the vehicle.
- Plan ahead; know where to go if you feel threatened and how to call for help.
- Try to walk with a friend, co-worker, or a security officer. Give your escort a ride back to the main entrance so they do not have to walk back alone.
- Stay on well-lit streets, and in the center of the sidewalk. Stay away from hiding spots such as bushes, doorways, alleys and parked cars. Cross the road if necessary.
- Be alert to your surroundings. Walk with confidence. Keep your head up and look around. Trust your instincts when you feel something is not right.
- Have the keys ready to unlock the door as you get near your vehicle. As you approach your car, look around, inside, and glance underneath for people who may be present. If you are suspicious, walk away. Go to a safe place and call for help.
- Avoid distractions like wearing headphones, texting or digging in purse. Be attentive.
- Know details regarding your location in case you need to call for help.

Adapted from: www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/violence_parking_lot.html

