

Protective Services Crime Prevention Tips



MetroLink and MetroBus Crime Avoidance Strategies

Protective Services often receives inquiries from community members regarding their personal safety on trains and buses. In response to those questions, we offer the following crime avoidance strategies.

- Adopt a vigilant, defensive mindset and always be aware of your surroundings.
- There is safety in numbers, so travel in pairs or groups when possible. If you must ride alone, travel during busy times of the day while numerous other riders are present.
- When riding MetroLink trains, try to sit in the front car. Doing so will put you in close proximity to the operator who can summon law enforcement authorities if required.
- Keep cash, mobile phones, laptop, jewelry, and other valuables out of sight.
- Never loan your mobile phone to strangers.
- Do not limit your hearing by the use of headphones or ear buds.
- If you must talk on the phone, remain aware of what is occurring around you.
- Avoid texting and emailing with your phone as it focuses your attention on your phone's screen and away from your surroundings.
- Activate your phone's GPS tracking feature to assist in locating it if stolen.
- Keep your phone locked while not in use to protect your data should your phone be stolen.
- If your phone is stolen, immediately report the theft to your service provider and to law enforcement authorities. (See last bulleted item below.)
- While seated on a public train or bus, keep your purse, backpack, or other belongings on the side of your body opposite the aisle.
- While waiting for a conveyance at a stop, keep your purse, backpack, and other belongings close to your body.
- "Snatch and grab" thefts are carried out most frequently when thieves can easily escape with stolen belongings. So be particularly mindful of your surroundings and protective of your property while waiting at platforms/stops and when the conveyance is at or near a stop.
- Politely decline to buy items being offered for sale or to participate in gambling or confidence games such as "three card Monte."
- If someone attempts to steal your property, do not fight them for it or chase them. Doing so may result in bodily harm to you.
- If you are the victim of a crime, try to become a good witness. What were the culprit's gender, race, approximate height, approximate weight, hair style, clothing, facial features, and any other distinguishing characteristics?
- All train platforms are equipped with direct phone systems to Metro security personnel should you require emergency assistance (see image above). For additional safety information, please review <http://www.metrostlouis.org/RidingMetro/SafetyAndSecurity.aspx>.

By practicing sound crime avoidance strategies, you can help protect yourself and your property while riding public trains and buses.