

From: isd-announce@usc.edu on behalf of Public Safety - Crime Alert [isd-announce@usc.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2005 7:20 PM
To: DPS@caps.usc.edu
Subject: Crime Alert - May 4, 2005

At approximately 4:30am on Wednesday, May 4, a female student walked from her apartment to her parked car in the ground-level parking garage of Sierra Apartments (2638 Portland St.). As the student approached her car she was confronted by a lone suspect wearing a ski-mask who pointed a semi-automatic handgun at her and demanded money. The student told the suspect she had no money. The suspect then struck the student on the side of her face with his fist. Suspect then demanded the student's vehicle. As she and the suspect began walking towards her car, the student sprayed the suspect with pepper-spray that she had on her key-chain. Suspect then fled in an unknown direction.

The victim described the suspect as African-American males, 25-35 years of age, 5'9'' tall and was wearing a full face ski-mask with only the eyes visible on his head, and all dark clothing.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE CRIMES, CALL THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AT 740-4321 OR LAPD SOUTH BUREAU SEX CRIMES UNIT AT (213) 473-4807.

SAFETY TIPS

1. MOST IMPORTANT*BE AWARE. When walking be aware of what is going on around you. Walk assertively. If you look like you know where you are going and what is happening around you, you are less likely to become a target for this type of crime.
2. Do not walk or travel alone, especially after dark. Ask a friend to walk or ride with you to your car or residence. If you walk with someone, make sure you wait for them to get inside before you leave. If you don't have anyone to walk with call for an escort. The USC Campus Cruiser (740-4911) will send an escort to give you a ride or walk you to your car between 5 P.M. and dawn. When you go jogging, use the track or pick a route inside the campus where there is less traffic. This will reduce the potential of becoming the victim of an act such the ones described above.
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4. Trust your instincts. If something "feels wrong" (with a person, a building, a situation, etc.), something probably is wrong. Even if you don't know why you are uncomfortable, change your plans, move away from the person, get out of the area *whatever is necessary to make the feeling go away.
5. If you feel like you are being followed stay in well-lighted areas and go into a building where there are other people such as a store or restaurant. If these aren't available, join a group of people and ask them to walk with you until it is safe.
6. Know the locations of the Emergency Phones (phones outside will have a blue light on top).
7. Report Suspicious Activity. If you see a person who is acting suspiciously or some type of activity that doesn't look right, or feel like you're being followed, call Public Safety immediately. Call 740-4321, to report a crime in progress or suspicious people or activity.