

Taking proactive steps towards your safety can make a significant difference. Stay informed about the latest safety tips and engage with your community to foster a safer environment for everyone. Remember, your safety is a shared responsibility—let's work together to keep our community secure.

*Stay vigilant, stay safe!*

# Your Guide to Home and Personal Safety



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City of  
**TORRANCE**  
California

## HOME SAFETY TIPS

### 1. Secure Your Home

- **Locks and Doors:** Install high-quality deadbolts on all exterior doors.
- **Alarms and Security Systems:** Consider installing an alarm system. Even basic alarms can deter criminals.
- **Lighting:** Use motion-activated lights outside your home. Ensure entrances are well-lit to discourage intruders.
- **Secure Windows:** Keep windows locked, and use security film or bars if necessary, especially on ground-level windows.

### 2. Safe Practices

- **Do Not Advertise Vacancies:** When away, use timers on lights and a trusted neighbor to collect mail. Do not announce travel plans on social media.
- **Stranger Awareness:** Do not open the door to strangers. Use peepholes or video doorbells to verify visitors' identities.
- **Garage Safety:** Keep your garage door closed and locked. Ensure the door from the garage into your home is also secure.

### 3. Neighborhood Involvement

- **Neighborhood Watch:** Join or start a neighborhood watch program. Familiarize yourself with neighbors and keep an eye out for suspicious activity.
- **Community Engagement:** Participate in community meetings and safety seminars. Share information and tips with neighbors.

## PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

### 1. Awareness and Preparedness

- **Stay Alert:** Be aware of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or crowded places. Avoid distractions like using your phone.
- **Trust Your Instincts:** If something feels off, leave the area or seek help.
- **Plan Your Route:** Know your route and have a backup plan. Stick to well-lit and populated areas, especially at night.

### 2. Safety on the Go

- **Driving Safety:** Keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up. Park in well-lit areas and have your keys ready before reaching your car.
- **Personal Belongings:** Keep valuables hidden and secure. Use bags that can be zipped and carried close to your body.

### 3. Self-Defense and Emergency Preparedness

- **Self-Defense Tools:** Carry a whistle, personal alarm, or pepper spray. Know how to use them and be prepared to do so if necessary.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Have a list of emergency contacts in your phone. Include the numbers of family, friends, and local emergency services.
- **Learn Basic Self-Defense:** Consider taking a self-defense course to build confidence and skills.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### 1. Safety for Children

- **Stranger Danger:** Teach children not to talk to strangers or accept gifts. Establish a family code word for emergencies.
- **Safe Zones:** Identify safe places in your neighborhood where children can go if they feel threatened.

### 2. Safety for Seniors

- **Scam Awareness:** Educate seniors about common scams targeting them. Encourage them to verify requests for money or information.
- **Check-Ins:** Set up regular check-ins with family, friends, or neighbors.

### What to Do in an Emergency

1. **Stay Calm:** Take deep breaths and try to remain calm.
2. **Call 911:** For any immediate threat to life or property, call 911.
3. **Provide Clear Information:** Give the dispatcher your location, nature of the emergency, and any relevant details.
4. **Seek Safety:** Move to a safe location if possible and wait for authorities.