



police@oak-park.us

www.oak-park.us/police

708.386.3800

Police seek help identifying robber 04.06.11

The Oak Park Police Department is asking for the public's help as it investigates three recent robberies of female residents within the last 10 days.

The incidents occurred around midnight near Lake Street between Austin Boulevard and Oak Park Avenue. The victims reported that the offender approached from behind, placed them in a chokehold and demanded money. No injuries have been reported and there is no indication of a weapon.

The suspect is described as an African-American male in his 20s, about five feet 10 inches to six feet tall with a medium build. He is believed to have been wearing a light colored jacket with a black knit hat.

Police patrols have been increased in the area as the investigation continues. Anyone with information regarding these incidents is urged to contact the Oak Park Police Department at 708.386.3800 or e-mail police@oak-park.us. Information can be provided anonymously via telephone to 708.434.1636 or on-line at www.oak-park.us.

In the meantime, Police are offering the following crime-prevention tips:

- Always be aware of your surroundings – especially at night or in the early morning.
- When in a vehicle, always travel with the doors locked and never leave an unattended vehicle running and unlocked – even for a moment.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately if you notice anything suspicious, whether it is a person nearby or a vehicle.
- Be aware of anybody who approaches you or your car or is loitering near traffic lights, stop signs, parking areas or alleys.
- Attract the attention of motorists or pedestrians if you think you are in danger. Blow your horn, flash your lights, put on your emergency lights and shout
- Do not enter your garage or a parking area if you believe you are being followed. Drive to the police station or call 9-1-1 on your cell phone.
- Remember, you can always contact the police if you would like an escort.

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Robbery & Theft Prevention Tips

from the Oak Park Police Department

Robbery Do's and Don'ts

DO obey an offender's instructions when it's practical to do so – particularly when they threaten to hurt you. Property can be replaced – you cannot.

DO pay attention to your environment and what's around you.

DO keep cash in a separate money clip or pouch so you can hand it over to a criminal without sacrificing credit cards, identification and other important items.

DON'T be distracted while walking or waiting for public transportation. Someone on a cell phone or listening to music can be enticing to a would-be robber.

DON'T carry a purse or bag loosely around your shoulder.

Mass Transit Riders

Should you be targeted by a potential thief, make a mental note of the offender's race, age, height, sex, clothing, color of hair and eyes, etc. Note anything unusual such as scars or tattoos.

Note the number of accomplices and how they left the area, direction of travel, what type of vehicle, the make, color and license plate.

Note the type, size and color of a weapon.

When riding on the train, don't wear headphones.

Travel in pairs if you can, do not sit alone in a train, car or bus – or if you must travel alone, sit near mass transit employees.

Do not sit near an aisle seat or door with exposed valuables.

If you are carrying a bag or purse, make sure the items are secured (zipped up) and away from the aisles.

Keep personal belongings between yourself and the aisle.

Personal Safety

Avoid carrying a purse. Keep your wallet in your pocket instead.

If you wear jewelry, conceal it under your clothing.

Carry your cell phone separately from your purse or backpack. If someone steals your bag, your cell phone is still accessible to call 9-1-1.

Avoid walking alone in the street at night. When unavoidable, use well-lit streets to get to your destination.

Walk near the curb and away from shrubbery where someone could be hiding.

Keep an arms length away from strangers.

If you think someone suspicious is approaching you or following you, cross to the other side of the street and head for the nearest public place.

Carry a whistle and use it when your personal safety is in danger.

Don't make it obvious that you are in unfamiliar territory.

Pay attention. Suspects look for victims who are not alert.

Moderate alcohol intake and remain in control of your senses. Offenders target those who are most vulnerable.

Walk briskly with confidence, your head up and look at those around you.

Oak Park Police Department

*Committed to community, integrity and excellence
in public safety*

123 Madison St., Oak Park, IL 60302

708.386.3800 non-emergency

708.434.1630 crime tip hotline

police@oak-park.us

www.oak-park.us/police

**Always call 9-1-1 in an
emergency.**