



Spartanburg County

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2013

RISKY BUSINESS

Mission Statement:

At Spartanburg County, safety and health are a shared responsibility. Everyone from administrators, to each and every employee, must take ownership of his/her safety and that of their co-workers.



Personal Safety

If you turn on the news these days, chances are you'll hear an assault story of someone in your community. Whether it be physical or sexual, personal attacks happen every day. One way to avoid falling victim to these attacks is to familiarize with personal safety tips. These tips reduce risk of an assault and help to sharpen your common sense intuitions. Keep these in mind the next time you are on your neighborhood streets.



- ✚ Don't walk or jog early in the morning or late at night when the streets are deserted.

✚ When out at night, try to have a friend walk with you.

- ✚ Carry only the money you'll need on a particular day.

- ✚ Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets such as pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.

- ✚ If you think someone is following you, switch directions or cross the street. If the person continues to follow you, move quickly toward an open store or restaurant or a lighted house. Don't be afraid to yell for help.

- ✚ Try to park in well-lit areas with good visibility and close to walkways, stores, and people.



- ✚ Make sure you have your key out as you approach your door.

- ✚ Always lock your car, even if it's in your own driveway; never leave your motor running.

- ✚ Do everything you can to keep a stranger from getting into your car or to keep a stranger from forcing into his or her car.

- ✚ If a dating partner has abused you, do not meet him or her alone. Do not let him or her in your home or car when you are alone.

- ✚ If you are a battered spouse, call the police or sheriff immediately. Assault is a crime, whether committed by a stranger or your spouse or any other family member. If you believe that you and your children are in danger, call a crisis hotline or a health center (the police can also make a referral) and leave immediately.
- ✚ If someone tries to rob you, give up your property—don't give up your life.
- ✚ If you are robbed or assaulted, report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent someone else from becoming a victim.

Finally, always seek help if you are feeling unsafe or unsure of your surroundings. And remember, potential offenders may also be acquaintances. So, think smart. It could save your life.



10 Important Steps in Case of an Automobile Accident

Each year, millions of people are involved in automobile accidents. If you are one of those unfortunate individuals, will you know what to do in the aftermath of a collision? No one likes to think about getting into a car accident, but it's important to plan ahead so you'll know how to deal with insurance issues.



Here are 10 important steps to remember if you're ever in an automobile accident:

1. Aid the injured
2. Obtain facts about injured person(s)
3. Record facts about your vehicle

4. Obtain facts about OTHER vehicle(s)
5. Call the police
6. Don't comment or take responsibility
7. Get witnesses
8. Describe & Report the accident
9. Record facts about other property damaged (non-vehicles)

10. Finally, Be Safe.



Walking on Ice

Assume that all surfaces are slippery, so you will be aware of your surroundings and more cautious as you walk. This is also important when getting out of a car and stepping down on the ground. When you are caught off-guard by slippery surfaces, you can fall.

Keep your eyes and head up. Looking down at the ground throws off your balance and could cause you to bump into someone or something straight ahead of you. If you have glasses and look down, you might trip because your vision is compromised.

Walk like a penguin. Your center of gravity widens this way. Point your toes out and shift your weight from side to side like a penguin does; this type of walking feels, and looks, a lot like a shuffle.



Place your feet fully on the ground as you walk. It can be tempting to walk on tiptoes across ice. Walk with flat feet and slightly bent knees while on ice.

Keep your arms out at your side and slightly extended when on icy sidewalks. Do not put your hands in your pockets or on your hips. Think of someone walking on a tightrope and maintaining balance with his arms.