

## **Crimes of Opportunity:**

Many crimes are crimes of opportunity and can be prevented. Please review these tips on how to prevent being a crime victim:

- Safety in numbers: Please contact the Campus Police Department if you have any safety concerns or require an escort
- Report suspicious and unusual activity immediately to the Campus Police Department
- Always lock your car and remove personal items from plain view
- Don't leave personal belongings unattended
- Police officers can assist you with crime prevention on or off the campus. If you have a question please contact us. We are here to help.

## **Secure your vehicle:**

- Always keep your vehicle locked while on campus
- Electronic equipment should be mounted so it can be removed and locked in your trunk
- Consider installing an alarm system in your vehicle to guard against theft
- Check and make sure you always have an adequate amount of gasoline, and your windshield wipers and lights are in good working order
- Report suspicious persons or vehicles to the Campus Police Department immediately

## **Sexual Assault Prevention**

The Police Department is responsible for investigating sexual assaults that occur on the property of the main campus in Crystal Lake. Any suspected incident should be reported immediately by calling (815) 455-8733. Incidents occurring elsewhere should be reported to the local police agency of that jurisdiction immediately. McHenry County College is committed to eliminating all incidents of attempted or actual unwanted sexual activity.

Sexual assault is a serious concern affecting both women and men. Research shows that rape or attempted rape affects one in six college women at least once during their college years. More than 80 percent of all sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows and 90 percent of date or acquaintance rapes involve alcohol. Although personal safety can never be guaranteed, there are steps you can take to reduce your risk of being the victim of sexual assault:

- Communicate your wants early. Know what your limits are for both alcohol and sex before going to a party or bar.
- Be assertive about communicating what you want from another person. Ask the person you are with to do the same.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation feels uncomfortable for you, there is probably a good reason.
- Be aware of the effects of alcohol on your body. Alcohol interrupts the ability to make sound decisions and impairs your ability to communicate clearly.

- Avoid being alone with an unfamiliar person, especially when alcohol is involved. If you are alone, make sure that your friends know where you are and how long you will be gone.
- When on a date with someone new, make sure that you are responsible for your own transportation. It is safer to meet up with someone than to rely on an unfamiliar person for a ride.
- Watch out for someone who is pressuring you; who keeps giving you drinks; who wants to get you alone; who guilt trips you if you are reluctant.

For information on registered sex offenders in McHenry County, the Illinois State Police have a registered sex offender's web site at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>

## **Personal Safety**

If you are a victim or witness of a crime, report to the Campus Police Department as soon as possible. If you are accosted by someone who displays a weapon or indicates he/she has one, obtain as much information as you can about the perpetrator(s) without endangering yourself. Try to notice such things as height, weight, build, race, color and length of hair, color of eyes, clothing, and any scars or tattoos that may help identify the criminal.

- Try to notice such things as the vehicle's license number and direction of travel
- Do not handle or disturb physical objects used or handled by the assailant or anything else at the crime scene
- Remain in your clothing and try not to clean up or shower until you have met with and reported the incident to police