

What is a Robbery?

A Robbery is defined as a violent criminal act *against your person*, rather than against your property. If someone breaks into your home or business and takes your property from the premises, the crime is called a burglary. However, if you are confronted by an individual on the street or in your home, car, or business, and force or fear is used against you and your property taken, you have become the victim of a robbery.

Two things to remember

- Robbers want one thing — your money and/or property — and they want it quickly.
- Many robbers are usually nervous. Don't delay a robbery suspect in any way which could increase the potential for violence. Give the robber what they want and do it quickly. Don't risk your life, or another person's life for a piece of property.

Home Prevention

- Do not open the door to an unexpected visitor.
- Install a peep-hole with a large viewing area so that you identify who's at the door.
- Lock your doors and windows.
- All doors that lead outside should have dead-bolt locks.
- Make sure exterior lighting is on at night. Use timers or photoelectric cells that automatically turn lights on and off at dusk and dawn.
- Notify the Police of any suspicious vehicles in your neighborhood. Take note of suspicious vehicle characteristics, prior damage, stickers, etc. Write down the license plate(s).

Business Prevention

The following recommendations may reduce your chances of being a victim of a robbery.

- Greet customers as they enter your business. Look them in the eye, ask them if they need assistance. Ensure they are aware that you noticed them.
- Keep advertisement postings on the windows to a minimum. Allow police officers, business owners and passersby to easily view inside the store.

- Keep all doors locked except the main entrance. Install a door signaling system like a buzzer or alert tone, which alerts employees of customer arrivals or departures.
- Install ample outdoor lighting around the business, in addition to surveillance cameras inside and outside of the premises. Install eye level cameras.
- Install bullet resistant glass around the cashier or areas where money transactions/counts are made.
- During evening hours, have minimal cash in the register and a timer safe for large quantities of cash on the premises. Post decals on the outside windows, indicating that employees do not have access to the safe.
- Have employees store their personal valuables inside secured desks or lockers.
- Avoid routine banking habits — have two employees make a deposit or withdrawal, with one employee designated to be vigilant of suspicious people or activity.
- If you sense you are being followed do **not** drive home. Call 9-1-1 or drive to a busy area or the nearest police or fire station for assistance. Report suspicious activity.
- Don't carry marked "moneybags" that make it obvious you are transporting cash. Carry money in a nondescript bag or utilize a money carrier.

Carjacking Prevention

- Park in a well lit area where you can easily locate your vehicle from a distance.
- Have your keys in hand while approaching your vehicle. Look around and inside your vehicle for any suspicious persons who may be hiding. Should you notice a suspicious person, immediately call 9-1-1, do not approach the subject. Try to move to a safe location. Once you enter your vehicle you should lock the doors.
- While driving, remain alert to surrounding activity. Watch your rear view mirrors for any suspicious vehicles following you.
- While stopped in traffic, leave ample room between your car and the vehicle in front of you so you can safely drive away if threatened.

- Do not place valuable items (ie: purse) on your seat. Keep your vehicle windows rolled up far enough to prevent someone from reaching inside your vehicle.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Walk in a well-lit area. If able, try not to walk alone. It's safer to walk with another person or group.
- Be cognizant of large groups who are "just driving around" or loitering.
- Do not take short cuts, i.e. alleys to your destination.
- Walk with confidence. Walk with your head up and scan the area for suspicious activity. Try to conceal your valuables while walking in public.
- Don't carry your cellphone in your hand — use a bluetooth or a headset that still allows you to hear around you.
- Trust your instincts and avoid uncomfortable situations and locations.
- Don't use ATMs in secluded areas or areas that are poorly lit.
- Don't carry large sums of cash on your person.



What To Do if You Are Robbed

Follow the robber's directions. In most incidents, the suspect rarely hurts anyone who cooperates.

Do not try to be a hero. Remain calm and do not resist. Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others around you. Be a good witness.

If you need to move or alter your position because of an ailment, tell the robber what you are doing and why. Assure the robber you will cooperate.

Take note of:

- Robber's gender, race, height, weight, hair, eye color, age, clothing, shoes, etc.
- Location and description of the robber's tattoos and/or scars.
- Unique odors of the suspect(s) e.g. cologne, smell of alcohol, under the influence, body odor, etc.
- The direction the robber flees. If safe to do so, try to obtain a vehicle description, and/or license plate.
- Number of suspects who accompanied the robber.
- Description of weapon (automatic or revolver, caliber, color, etc.)

After the Robbery

- Once you are safe, ask others if they need medical assistance and call — 9-1-1 immediately.
- Protect the crime scene, do not touch anything the robbers may have touched. Preserve the area for police officers to investigate.
- Ask any witnesses to remain at the scene to aid the police officers.
- Write down a comprehensive description of the robbers and what they did while waiting for officers to arrive.
- Pay attention to speech patterns, unique phrases, demands, names, monikers, etc.



The Long Beach Police Department has the capability to access live video of locations throughout the city to be used as a visual aid in the event of a crime. LBCOP (Long Beach Common Operating Picture) works in conjunction with Community Camera Partnership (CCP) and connects the security (surveillance) cameras of Long Beach businesses, organizations, institutions, and residential complexes.

For additional information visit
www.longbeach.gov/police/lbcop or call
1-562-570-5870

Common Phone Numbers for Assistance

Front Desk (General Inquiries)	562-570-7260
Robbery Detail	562-570-7464
Vehicle Impound	562-570-2828

You may also contact the Long Beach Police Department by calling 1-562-435-6711 or TTY 1-562-570-6529 for the hearing impaired.

You may also text a tip by composing your message and entering "274637" as the mobile # in the "to" line. In the messaging body, type the word "TIPLA" followed by a space and then your crime tip information. Hit "Send" to send the information. You will receive your unique encrypted identifier shortly, which will start the secure, anonymous text dialogue. This tip service is not monitored 24-hours a day. Call 9-1-1 for immediate police services.

You may also obtain additional information on robberies, along with other crime prevention tips by visiting the Long Beach Police Department's website at www.longbeach.gov/police.

This information is available in an alternative format by request to the Personnel Division at 562-570-7120.



ROBBERY PREVENTION



LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



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