

Violent crime is an unfortunate reality in the United States, and college campuses are not immune. In the past 10 years, murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assaults have been reported on college campuses across the nation. While campuses in the Rocky Mountain West may appear peaceful, they are in reality small cities with many of the same problems of a city.

Thousands of people make safe trips across campus every day. Occasionally an incident takes place in which a student or campus visitor doesn't make that trip safely. How can you decrease your chances of becoming a victim?

Consider the following suggestions in your day to day activities.

Violence

If you live on campus

Most residence halls have rules including: no door propping and mandatory guest sign-in during night time hours. Students are encouraged to report suspicious activity. These basic safety precautions have been proven to increase your safety -- follow them.

If you live off campus

If your neighborhood or complex has rules for your safety -- follow them. Also, keep your doors and windows locked, shades closed, exterior lights on and report suspicious activity.

If you are in a car

Keep doors locked, have your keys ready before you reach your car. Think twice about giving strangers (i.e. hitchhikers) rides; or accepting rides from strangers.

If you are walking

Stay in well-lit, well-traveled areas. If you are unsure about an area or concerned about your safety, for whatever reason, use your campus escort service or ask a friend to walk with you.

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Alcohol and Violence

Many violent crimes on campus are committed by people who are drunk. Unfortunately, some of these are people you know. Often a victim has been using alcohol as well. These are circumstances you might be able to control.

If you are attending a function serving alcohol

Consider not drinking.

If you do drink, do it responsibly and legally.

Pay attention to what is going on with your friends. Don't leave a friend behind if they've had too much to drink.

Avoid becoming isolated or going home with people you don't know well.

Remember: People, even close friends, who have had too much alcohol often use very poor judgement.

Campus