

ADDITIONAL PERSONAL SAFETY REMINDERS

Stay alert. Keep your mind on your surroundings. What is happening near you? Do not get distracted while walking out to your car. Look to see who is around.

Also, do not carry so many items that you do not have your hands free. Lock your car as soon as you get in.

Walk with confidence. Communicate the message that you are calm, confident and know where you are going. Stand tall, walk with purpose and make eye contact with people around you.

Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave the area. You can return when it feels safe, or when you are accompanied by someone. If you think you are being followed, change direction and head for open stores or a more populated area. Call 911 on your cell phone.

Business Watch

We pay attention to our surroundings and report suspicious behavior to fellow merchants and local law enforcement.



ENFORCED HERE

If you would like a Business Watch sticker for your store window, contact Community Service Officer Nancy Sawyer.

Share Your Thoughts

The Ukiah Police Department's mission is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you have any suggestions or comments about how we can improve, please complete our online survey.

If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button at www.ukiahpolice.com. You can also leave crime tips on our website.

Who Do I Call?

Emergency 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 for any life-threatening emergency or crime in progress.

Non-Emergency (707) 463-6262

Online Crime Report: ukiahpolice.com

Business Office (707) 463-6241

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Nancy Sawyer

Community Service Officer & Business Liaison
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Ukiah Police Department

Parking Lot Safety

Keeping People and Things Secure



CASTING YOUR LOT WITH SAFETY

“They paved paradise and put up a parking lot,” Joni Mitchell once sang. For criminals, parking lots can be that paradise

Car thefts, personal attacks, break-ins to adjoining buildings - parking lots present all of these dangers. Whether you own a lot as a business, or have one in your place of business, it’s your responsibility to make the lot as safe a possible.

That means creating a security plan, setting firm policies about parking lot use, and in taking simple steps to safeguard the lot area.

SIGNS:

Make sure users can find entrances and exits easily. Use signs to remind lot users to take precautions, such as Lock Your Car or Remember Your Level and Aisle Number.

You can also warn potential criminals through signs like No Trespassing or Security Patrolled (but only if it’s true; you don’t want to give a false sense of security).

LIGHTING:

Criminals love anything that will cover their activities, especially darkness.

Use sufficient illumination, and replace burned out lights promptly.

DESIGN:

Paint underground walls white to increase the light levels. Minimize hiding places for criminals and maximize visibility for any patrols (or for potential witnesses to a crime). Keep exterior walls and foliage under three feet, and trim any tree branches below six feet.

PATROLS:

If you have the resources, patrol regularly and vary the patrol times and routes to avoid being predictable.

ALARMS:

They should be clearly marked, and zoned for response so that security personnel can locate any breaches.

CAMERA:

The decision to use security cameras depends largely on your budget, monitoring capabilities, and the physical environment. For outdoor lots, cameras can give security personnel a feel for what is happening in the general area. Indoors, cameras are particularly effective at elevators, lobbies, entrances and exits, cash/ticket booths, stairwells, or any other area where people stand and wait.

ACCESS:

Even in a restricted lot it’s tough to completely control access. Without turning it into a fortress, you can take precautions such as using pass cards (that have to be read both in and out), installing motion detectors to keep trespassers away, and linking emergency doors to the alarm. Anyone noticing strangers lurking in the lot should notify security or the police immediately.

While the lot operator or business owner has a duty to protect the area, lot users must also be safety conscious.

- Always lock the car and roll up the windows all the way. If you have any valuables or packages, lock them in the trunk.
- If you’re staying late, park the car near an exit or the attendant, not in the area that will be empty and remote when you leave.
- You might also ask the security guard or a co-worker to escort you to your car.
- As you approach the car, have your keys ready and check the floors and seats before getting in.

By taking common-sense security steps, owners and users can both greatly increase the safety of the parking lot. It may not be paradise, but at least it will be crime free.



Learn more at
ukiahpolice.com