



## MN Community Safety Checklist and Guide

- Have a First Aid Kit on you: It can be as simple as bandages and alcohol swabs in your wallet or purse. Supplies can be found at most stores. Have a First Aid App and SOS activated on your phone.
- In case you need to urgently relocate and lay low, have a “Go Bag” packed with supplies, clothing etc. for at least 72 hours.
- People being targeted should always have another person with them while outside to act as escort/bodyguard. The more people you have, the less likely you will be targeted. Criminals are looking for easy targets.
- Bodyguards can be rotated as needed.
- Conduct advanced location spot checks if you feel the location may be compromised. You can assign one person to check the location in advance.
- Wherever you are, always have 2 escape routes mapped out. Moving targets are harder to hit.
- Stay aware of your surroundings. If someone approaches that looks suspicious, keep a minimum standoff distance which buys you time to take evasive action.
- Carry items that can assist you. A coat, umbrella, walking stick, steel water bottle, etc. can all be used against a knife. A legally obtained firearm, taser, pepper spray or other weapon can also be used as long as they are legal. Anything you see can also be used as a weapon (environmentals).



## Harrassment Best Practices Guide

- If being harassed, don't answer any questions. If they aren't supposed to be there, kindly ask them to leave. If they do not, tell them they are trespassing and call the police.
- Harassment is defined under Minnesota Statutes Section 609.748 - It includes behaviors that cause substantial emotional distress or are intended to intimidate, threaten, or frighten another person. This can encompass a wide range of actions, such as repeated unwanted contact, threats of physical harm, or any intrusive behavior that compromises another's safety or privacy. Document Incidents with time, date and description and you can file for a Harrassment Restraining Order (HRO), a court order that prevents the suspect from contacting the victim in any form.
- De-escalate by:
  - Asking questions and keeping the individual talking as long as possible. They are likely to lose steam and you will buy time. Never say "CALM DOWN" or show disproportionate anger.
  - Creating more distance.
  - Other people can record, take notes, be ready to subdue, or call 911/get help.
- If you are about to be attacked, raise your hands and clearly state "I don't want to fight you". This creates witnesses who can testify that you tried to de-escalate. It also puts your hands in a position to defend any sudden assault.
- You can place your body in front of a potential victim to act as a shield.



- Recording is extremely important as it can immediately stop individuals from behaving more extremely.
- If possible and safe to do so, film the perpetrators and notify them that they are causing alarm and distress and will be reported for stalking. That is all that should be said. Example: "You are causing alarm and distress to the children. Please stop your activity immediately or you will be reported for stalking." And I do not believe it needs to occur two or more times, if the acts are coordinated by a group.
- Always have 3 people. It's always best to have at least 2 other people with you, 1 to record, 1 to de-escalate, 1 ready to call 911.
- Most phones have an SOS feature which will automatically call 911 while sending geolocation and recorded video to 4 pre-selected contacts. This is usually accessible in your settings.
- Specify exactly what was said that was threatening violence. This is critical for a police report. Reporting every single incident, no matter how small, is important as police take action on data, especially suspects who have done this before. By reporting, you are protecting others. Law enforcement will adjust their foot patrols, activities, etc. based on reports from the community.
- If sisters are being harassed in a park, let it be known to law enforcement. For example, if activities are planned for a specific day and time, even by a small group of sisters and their children in the park, alert the police ahead of time that there will be a gathering and of any concerns about a repeat of harassment, stalking, videoing, etc.



The following template is an example on how to record incidents. It is important that details like the time, speech including violent speech, action, clothing, skin tone, shoes and identifying features like tattoos, beards, hair color are all identified.

## SECURITY INCIDENT REPORT TEMPLATE

Location: \*\*\* ADDRESS

Date & Time:

What Happened: (What was observed, where, and how it ended.)

Individual Description:

- \* Gender / Approx. age
- \* Height & build
- \* Clothing & footwear
- \* Accessories (bag, mask, hood, etc.)
- \* Direction of travel upon exit

Action Taken:

- \* Footage taken?
- \* Individual monitored / approached
- \* Item taken / disturbance caused (if applicable)
- \* Police contacted: Yes / No

Status / Notes:

\* Individual/group left area | \* Ongoing / isolated incident | \* Volunteers advised to remain alert

The SALAM Project is a Canadian based group of Muslim emergency management, law enforcement, urban planning and military professionals who help mosques with security planning and training.