

Children's Safety

- When visiting local attractions, dress children in bright clothing and designate a meeting site for lost family members. For small children, write down their names and where they're staying and put it in their pockets.



- Instruct children not to open hotel room doors to people they don't know.
- Make sure children are familiar with hotel/motel escape routes. Discuss which adult is responsible for which child/children in an emergency.
- In Illinois, when in a car, children under the age of 8 MUST be secured in a safety restraint system more commonly called a child safety seat. (fyi - Booster seats are special seats designed to make adult seat belts properly fit older children. Correct use of a booster seat will fulfill the new law requirement.) Children must not be left alone in a car.
- Curfew in Chicago is 10:00 pm Sunday-Thursday and 11:00 pm Friday & Saturday which is strictly enforced for people under 17 years of age.

Vehicle Security

- Do not advertise you are a visitor. Place maps, travel brochures and valuables in the glove compartment or trunk before you get to your destination. Carry wallets, checkbooks and purses with you.



- Check the back seat before getting into your car.
- Always lock your car and take the keys. Don't hide a spare key on your vehicle, a thief is sure to find it.
- Never leave your vehicle with the engine running.
- Park in well-lighted, busy areas.
- Whenever you stop overnight, remove bags and other valuables from the car and take them inside your room.
- Remember: a thief will break your \$100 window to steal your \$10 sunglasses.

Richard M. Daley
Mayor

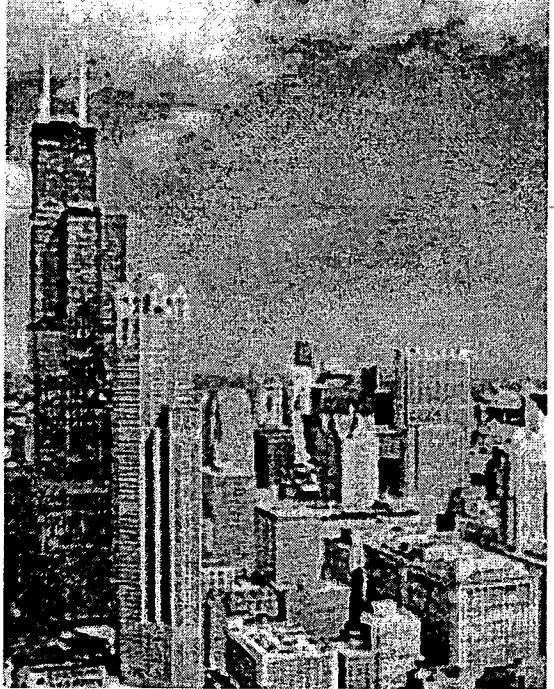
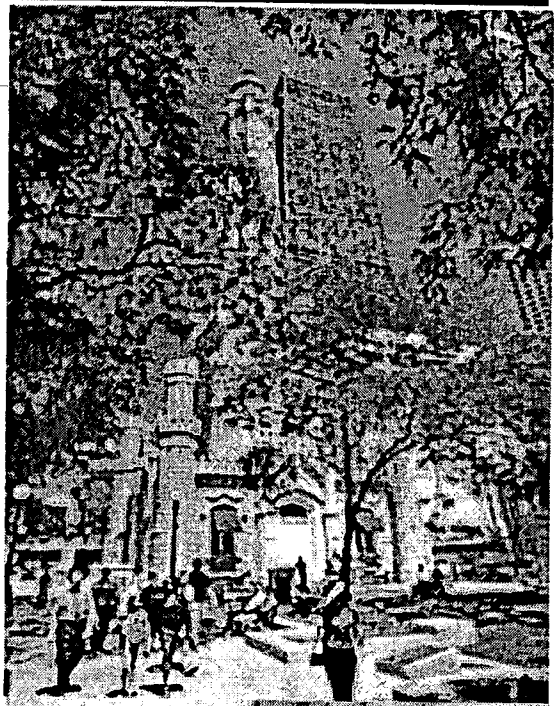
Jody P. Weis
Superintendent of Police



Chicago Police Department
Preventive Programs
Unit 132
3510 S. Michigan
Chicago, IL 60653

Phone: 312-745-5838
Fax: 312-745-6935

VISITOR SAFETY TIPS



Hotel/Motel Security

- Determine the most direct route to and from your room to the fire escapes, elevators and nearest telephone.
- Use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and windows.
- Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Open the door only if you are certain the person has a legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the front desk.
- Report any lost or stolen items to the management and to the police.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards, jewelry and other valuables, extra room keys or car keys in the room. Take valuables with you or leave them in the hotel safety deposit box.
- Report to the management any suspicious activity in the corridors or rooms. Remember - the only way to stop crime is to get involved in crime prevention.
- Check with your knowledgeable hotel concierge for any questions regarding directions, activities, and special events.



Sightseeing

- Ask for directions at your hotel/motel or an info center to those attractions you want to visit.
- Looking lost may make you look like an easy target for crime. If you get lost, find an open business and ask for directions.
- Be wary of strangers who seem overly anxious to help you.
- Visitors are major targets for pickpockets in many cities throughout the world. Stay alert to what's going on around you.
- When traveling in any unfamiliar place, avoid driving isolated highways at night and, if possible, avoid traveling alone.
- Whether you're biking, skating or riding the waves, don't forget the protective gear, sunscreen and drinking water.

On the Road



- Photocopy all documents, including passport, credit cards and tickets before leaving home and store copies in the hotel safe.
- Non-travel papers such as local credit cards and irreplaceable photos, should be left at home.
- Use traveler's checks and credit cards. Keep a record of their serial numbers in a separate and safe place in case they are lost or stolen.
- Carry only the cash you need in small denominations and never discuss your plans or the amount of money you are carrying.
- Carry your purse close to your body and your wallet in your front pocket.
- Keep track of your plane, train or bus tickets - they are as good as cash.
- While driving, respect and obey the traffic signs. Don't drink and drive, and always use your seat belt.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- If your car breaks down, turn on your flashers and raise the hood. If you must abandon your car, park safely and keep all passengers together.

Panhandling



- Every major city in the world has a panhandling concern. This social problem is common to urban areas. Their presence need not prevent people from enjoying Chicago and its amenities.
- Most panhandlers are harmless; however, some transients are chronic law violators who often infringe upon the rights of others. We suggest using a combination of caution and respect around panhandlers and other strangers.
- Contributing to panhandlers will not help the problem. If you wish to help, contribute to a charity, mission, food bank or social service agency that assists the needy.

Public Transit

- Have a current bus or trolley schedule. This info can usually be obtained from the hotel concierge or front desk.
- Familiarize yourself with scheduled pick-ups at major attractions.
- Always make sure the taxi driver starts the meter, never pay more than the meter amount.
- Have exact fare for public transportation.
- Report bus, train concerns or compliments to CTA, 1-888-YOURCTA. Please note the vehicle number.
- When at a terminal for public transportation, never leave your luggage unattended.
- Accept no items from persons unknown to you to be carried on board an aircraft.



Conventioners



- "Chicago We're Glad you're here!"
- Airport Ambassadors, in cooperation with the Chicago Convention and Tourism Office, provide convention delegates and travelers from around the world with transportation information, maps, and brochures on Chicago's latest attraction and cultural institutions.
- Remove badges when leaving convention area.
- Walk "smart" when you leave your convention site; know your destination and the best way to reach it. Travel along sidewalks in lighted areas at night, and don't walk alone.
- Establish a "buddy" system with another delegate to the convention, share schedules and check up on each other periodically.
- Build your awareness of unknown surroundings by reviewing information on the community you are visiting (included in your registration packet), especially maps and guides.
- Jackets with pockets or fanny packs provide a convenient alternative for women to reduce the chance for lost or stolen handbags.
- Lap top computers are attractive, easy targets for thieves. Be sure your lap top is in a secure place.