HOME AND RESIDENCE

HALL SAFETY

• Don’t leave valuables like your wallet, credit cards, or jewelry, in open view. Mark easily stolen items like laptops and iPods, and keep a list of serial numbers, model numbers, and descriptions.

• Whether home or away, always keep doors and windows locked.

• Don’t keep large sums of money in your office, dorm room, or apartment.

• Report any broken windows or lights to maintenance and security staff.

• Take care of your keys. Don’t give anyone the chance to duplicate them.

• Ask about special security procedures during holidays and vacations.

• In over half of reported rapes, women know their attacker. Be wary of bringing casual acquaintances to your room.

• Immediately report any unusual activity, or in-progress crimes to police!

• College and University campuses are not exempt from crime. But, vigilant students, faculty, and staff can assist with making this a safe community to live, learn, and work in.

TELEPHONE TIPS

• List only first initials and last name in telephone directories.

• Be suspicious of surveys or wrong number calls, and do not divulge your name or address.

• Never reveal that you are at home alone.

• Hang up immediately on obscene phone calls.

• Report repetitive harassing phone calls.

STREET SMARTS

• Go out with a friend – not alone – especially if you’re headed for a late night snack or study break.

• Walk purposefully. Look confident. Watch where you are going. Be alert to your surroundings.

• Use well-lighted, well-traveled routes and try to walk with friends.

• Avoid shortcuts through isolated or wooded areas.

• Never hitchhike, and never pick up hitchhikers!
• Accept rides only from persons you know and trust. If harassed from a car, walk swiftly or run in the opposite direction to safety. If you’re really frightened, scream for help.

• Avoid isolated areas like classrooms after class hours. If you must be in these places, work with a friend, let someone know where you are, and be alert.

SAFETY WHILE DRIVING

• Always secure all doors and windows when leaving your car.

• Park in well-lighted areas and try not to walk alone in parking areas at night.

• Have keys ready when you approach your car. Check car for intruders before entering and lock door immediately after getting into your car.

• Always keep your gas tank at least half full.

• Store valuables out of sight and lock them in the trunk when the car is parked.

• Never attach a name to your key ring. Keep car keys separate from other keys.

• If your car breaks down in an isolated area, raise the hood. Stay in the locked car. Ask whoever stops to call the police. Sound horn if threatened.

BICYCLES

• Park in well-lighted and well-traveled areas. Use a cover if you have one.

• Always lock your bike or motorcycle when leaving it unattended, even if it’s only for a few minutes.

• University of Miami policy requires all bicycles on campus to be registered with campus police and secured with a campus police issued bicycle lock. Registration and locks are free. Visit www.miami.edu/police for more info.

• Stay as calm as possible. Think rationally and evaluate your resources and options – escape, use self-defense, negotiate, scream to attract attention, or act disgusting or crazy.

• It may be more advisable to submit than to resist and risk injury or death. You will have to make this decision based on the circumstances, such as the presence of a weapon, and the type of person you are.

• Try to provide detailed suspect information to police (i.e. height, weight, clothing, vehicle tag number).

• If you are robbed, threatened, or raped, call campus or local police immediately. You may save someone else from becoming a victim.