



PRESS RELEASE

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Suzy Lamplugh Trust Warns the Public to Be More Vigilant Against Crime During the Credit Crunch

The safety charity, Suzy Lamplugh Trust, are warning the public to be extra vigilant with their personal safety when out and about, as recent figures show that there was a marked increase in the number of cases of robbery during the last 3 months of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. (31 of the 42 police forces in England and Wales saw a rise in numbers)

Director of Personal Safety at the Trust, Sarah Haddon, says:

‘Although no-one has shown a direct causal link between the credit crunch and a rise in robbery, the recent crime figures and statistics obtained by The Independent newspaper from police forces across England and Wales, indicate that as the credit crunch bites deeper, certain acquisitive crimes are on the increase.

‘Sadly this is not surprising. The more some people struggle to manage financially, the more they will be tempted to rob or steal to get what they want or feel they need. It is important to note that the additional stress the present financial situation is putting people under could also make some people turn uncharacteristically to violence and we could see an overall increase in violent crimes. Therefore it is essential that we all take extra care during this time to avoid being a victim of a recession-related crime’.

The Trust offers the following advice:

Staying Safe on the Streets

- Stay alert on the streets at all times – and try not to get too complacent in your own neighbourhood just because it’s familiar. The sooner you see or hear danger approaching, the easier it will be to avoid it.

- Avoid wearing a personal stereo or chatting on your mobile in the street as this will distract you and prevent you from hearing danger approaching. It will also highlight that you have something worth stealing.
- Always try to use well-lit, busy streets and avoid danger spots like quiet or badly lit alleyways, subways or isolated car parks. Walk down the middle of the pavement if the street is deserted.
- If you do have to pass danger spots, think about what you would do if you felt threatened. The best idea is to head for a public place where you know there will be other people, for example a garage, pub or shop.
- If you think you are being followed, trust your instincts and take action. Cross the road, turning and checking to see who is behind you. If you are still being followed, keep moving. Make for a busy area/venue and tell people what is happening.
- Avoid keeping all your personal property in one place when on the street. Try to keep some money and your keys in a separate pocket, so that if you lose your bag or wallet, you can still get home safely.
- If someone approaches you and demands your bag or wallet, throw it as far as you can, giving you time to get away as the robber goes for your bag. Don't put up a fight. Remember possessions can be replaced, you can't.
- Consider carrying a personal safety alarm, which can be used to shock and disorientate an attacker, giving you vital seconds to get away.

For more safety advice visit www.suzylamplugh.org

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Notes to Editors:

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust, a registered charity, is the leading charity for personal safety. The Trust works to raise awareness of the importance of personal safety in order to help people to avoid violence and aggression and live safer, more confident lives.

The Trust works alongside government, the police, the educational establishment, public bodies and the business sector to encourage safety wherever people may be at risk - in the home, at work, in public and in schools and colleges, on public transport and when travelling at home or abroad.