

# CTA: The Safest Place in Town

## *Tips for Safe Riding*

### Criminal Offenses on CTA

1986

1991

1 Offense  
38,000 Trips



1 Offense  
280,000 Trips



1 Offense  
61,000 Trips



1 Offense  
300,000 Trips



***CTA wants your ride to be a safe and pleasant one. By following the tips in this brochure, you can greatly reduce the already slim chances of becoming a victim - and help discourage those who try to make a living by committing crimes. Public transportation is much safer than some perceive .... and you can help keep it safe.***



## ***In General***

### **The first rule: *Stay alert!***

Relax and enjoy your ride, but do not fall asleep or become so distracted that your purse or packages become unguarded. Know your route ahead of time, and have your fare ready while boarding, so your attention is not distracted.

People-watching is one of the benefits of riding transit - but there are some types of behavior that should be watched with suspicion. Assume a purposeful manner ... if you look apprehensive, some people might be more inclined to take advantage of this.



## ***Help is nearby ... on our vehicles***

Every CTA bus is equipped with a two-way radio. Tell the bus operator if an incident is occurring. Buses are also equipped with alarms for emergencies.

On trains, all motormen and conductors have two-way personal radios. Conductors are usually located towards the middle of the train. During late night hours, ride in the car with the conductor. Supervisors also have radios.



## ***Help is nearby ... at our stations***

Every rapid transit station has a public phone on the platform and on most mezzanines. There is no charge to call for emergency services (**dial 911**)

Every station agent booth has a direct line to the CTA's Control Center for the agent's use. Some stations have supervisor's booths on the platform that are staffed during day and early evening hours.

Elevated, ground level, and expressway median stations have agents on duty at most days and times, depending upon the ridership level. Subway stations have agents at all times that the station is open.

Late at night, you may wish to wait near the agent's booth until you hear a train coming, then go to the platform to board.



## **The Most Common Crimes**

The most common crimes that occur in public places are pickpocketing, purse snatching, jewelry theft and gambling. Here are ways to protect yourself, and to prevent these crimes from occurring in the first place.

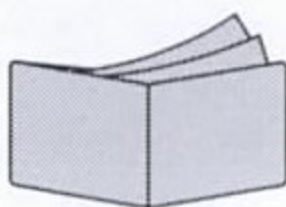
### **Pickpocketing**

A skillful pickpocket, often working with an accomplice, can remove a wallet in a couple of seconds and be gone before you notice the loss.



#### **Men:**

Do not carry **your wallet** in your back pocket—it's so easy to take out! Always keep your wallet in a front coat or pants pocket, buttoned or zipped if possible.



#### **Women:**

Make sure **your purse** is closed—pickpockets will try for the valuables inside the purse as well as the purse itself. Always know where your purse is—and hold on to it.

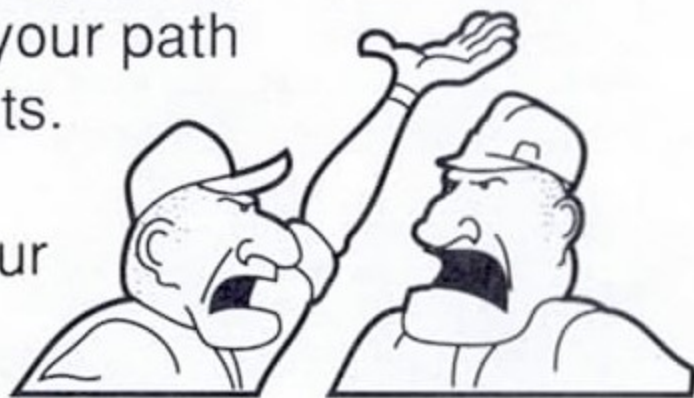


#### **Everybody:**

**Beware** of someone jostling you ... or blocking your path ... or loud arguments.

These may all be ploys to distract your attention while another member

of a pickpocket team collects your wallet, purse or package.



## ***Purse Snatching***

When waiting for a bus or train, keep your purse in front of you, and hold it close to you with both hands. If a snatch is attempted, **do not** cling to the purse. Resistance could result in injury. *Do not wrap the strap around your neck.*



Do not carry anything more valuable than you can afford to lose. Keep your wallet and credit cards in separate places. Leave unnecessary credit cards at home. Hide your valuables from view.

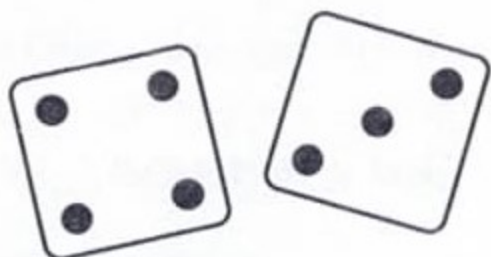
## ***Jewelry Theft***

Do not display flashy jewelry, chains or rings. It only takes a moment to have these torn from you ... with a high risk of injury. Keep all jewelry out of sight, in an interior pocket.



## ***Gambling***

This is for Las Vegas ... not a CTA bus or train. The favorite con games are three card monte or the shell game. The odds are 100 to 0 against you!



Gamblers will entice you by shouting "Five will get you ten" or "ten will get you twenty." Often, they'll have a friend acting as a stranger who will 'win', to encourage others to play.

The wad of money can be counterfeit or mostly blank paper.

### ***Remember:***

***Gamblers don't give away money!***



## ***If Attacked***

***Your #1 defense:  
SCREAM, SCREAM, SCREAM.***

Then, if necessary, defend yourself. Each incident is different, and there is no "one response" that can be recommended . . . your main objective should be to avoid injury. When you break away, run toward light and people, and scream!



## ***Report Crime Immediately***

If a crime goes unreported, two bad things happen: **(1)** The assailant cannot be caught, and **(2)** It allows criminals to operate without interference. Some people say, "What's the use, .... they'll never catch him."

If everyone thought that way, no one would be caught! This actually produces more crime by the same criminals. Whether you are a victim or a witness, call the police.

***Get involved!***



## ***Obtain a Detailed Description***

If you are the victim of a crime, it is important to give as complete a description as possible, **as soon as possible**. Make notes about the offender's height, weight, sex, age, race, distinguishing marks and clothing. Describe any weapon used and note in which hand it was held.

***Write it down!***

**You may not remember it when you need it. *Get witnesses if possible.***



## ***You Pay for Fare Evasion***

Fare cheating is a crime ... not only for the act itself, but in how it hurts other riders and our service in general. Money lost from fares not paid can only be made up by either fare increases and/or service cuts, or by not making improvements in service.

CTA doesn't make money; about 50% of our revenue comes from the farebox, and the rest from various taxes and public grants. So the only people that are being cheated are riders like yourself.

Don't give your transfer away ... why should someone else ride free when you had to pay? Don't loan your student riding permit or monthly pass to someone else.

Don't buy monthly passes from someone on the street. If you are caught using a counterfeit pass, it's not only embarrassing ... but illegal.



## ***You Pay for Graffiti***

In 1991, CTA spent \$5.2 million on removing graffiti and repairing vandalism. That money could have been used for better service, maintenance and security.

Why should you have to ride in uncomfortable surroundings that encourage disrespect for property and people? It's not art ... it's vandalism. Report acts of graffiti in progress by calling 911. We've repainted some stations over 200 times. It's time to stop this ... for everyone's sake.



## ***Safety and Civility is Everyone's Responsibility***

***Safety*** from crime involves responsible behavior by all riders. Do not invite crime by your actions, and report crime when it does occur. Remember, crimes are committed by a very small percentage of CTA riders.

***Don't let them ruin it for the rest of us!***

***Civility*** means appropriate behavior in a public place, such as at our stations or on our vehicles. We all know it's against the law to smoke, litter, or play radios on CTA.

But there's more to civility than that ... such as avoiding loud behavior, horseplay, fighting, sprawling over seats, and in general bothering other riders.

CTA gives you the freedom to think, read, talk, listen, and watch the passing scene.

***Let everyone enjoy this!***

***Enjoy Your City ...***

***Enjoy Your CTA ...***

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