



Safety Tips

The Castro experiences random crime as is true of any large city neighborhood. Criminals especially prey on shoppers, who are often distracted and carrying valuable gifts. Take extra care.

Car Break-Ins

Thefts from autos are the most common crime in the Castro. Thieves watch for items in plain view. A “smash and grab” takes just seconds, resulting in an expensive broken window and missing gifts.

- ☆Have nothing visible through the windows—even an empty bag or sweater can tempt a break-in
- ☆Keep packages in the trunk. Move your car each time you put in more items
- ☆Remove your GPS receiver—these are common targets
- ☆Watch for broken glass as break-ins often occur in clusters

Robbery

Most robbers want your stuff and don’t want to hurt you unless you fight back. In addition to adrenaline, they may also be on drugs.

- ☆Give them what they want
- ☆Only fight back if they appear intent on injuring you
- ☆Watch out for weapons such as guns or knives

Enjoy Safe Holiday Shopping in the Castro

Watch Out For:

- ☆Car Break-Ins or Thefts
- ☆Pickpockets & Stolen Purses
- ☆Robberies (strong-arm or with weapons)
- ☆Credit Card Thefts
- ☆On-Line Scams (bad checks, bait & switch, stolen merchandise, etc.)
- ☆Burglaries and break-ins
- ☆Assaults & Hate Crimes

Pickpockets & Stolen Purses

Avoid stolen money, credit cards or identity theft.

- ☆Carry wallet in front pocket, purse under arm, not hanging on strap
- ☆Keep ID separate from credit cards, never carry Social Security card
- ☆Record credit card numbers and immediately notify police and issuer if stolen
- ☆Be extra vigilant in crowds, such as when riding public transportation or when watching performers

Assault

If someone intends to cause harm, get away as quickly as possible.

- ☆Don’t separate from the crowd—especially after the bars close
- ☆Fight back—use keys or pepper spray as self-defense items
- ☆Make noise—blow a whistle or scream to attract attention
- ☆Run like hell at your first chance—don’t try to “get even”

Victim or Witness: Be Observant, Call 911

As a witness, keep a safe distance. Describe assailants to the 911 dispatcher:

- ☆Number of people who were involved and their roles
- ☆Height, weight, race, general appearance, color and style of hair
- ☆License number of vehicle(s)
- ☆Direction of escape and method (foot, car, bicycle, etc.)

