

- **LET IT GO** - If approached for equipment on a set, just let them have the equipment. Productions have insurance to cover losses – even student films have insurance through their school. Let it go.
- Even if its own personal equipment: **LET IT GO**. Your life is more valuable than a piece of film equipment.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Don't get so caught up with your task that you are not aware of what's going on around you.
- AD's, Producers, and Department Heads should communicate with their crewmembers about safety at the beginning of a shoot and the first day at each new location about safety and concerns.
- Whenever possible, use a buddy system while on location or with crew working at a production office at night. ("I'll keep an eye on you, and you keep an eye on me")
- No crewmember (regardless of gender) should close/lock up a production office or location by themselves. Consider escorting each other and end the day with someone.
- Stay off your phones when you are locking up, leaving, wrapping/closing up for a night or opening a set. Keep your full attention on your surroundings. Calls/texts can wait. This also goes for whenever you feel unsafe at a location.
- Remind security guards – no reading, texting, being on phones, etc. They should pay full attention, make their presence known and be in uniform so they are easily recognizable.
- Sufficient illumination is needed at production offices and at parking lots where crew is parking, especially if it is dark (if needed, possibly bring in rentable whacker/generator lights).
- Consider minimizing the amount of location directional signs to set so non-employees do not know the location for set or crew parking.
- Do not post pictures or posts about a production on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) so non-employees cannot track what is going on.
- Be cautious of any equipment that any crew might be carrying or displaying in public and their surroundings.
- Always check your environment before the job, especially when location scouting, and know when to hide your camera, camera phone, phone, etc.
- Consider scouting with a buddy or PA / Locations Assistant
- Whenever possible, be with other people from your group or company. There is safety in numbers.
- Be self-aware and consider if you stand out or attract unnecessary attention in any way at a particular area.
- Never wear expensive or showy jewelry or clothing (i.e., watch, rings, bracelets, necklace, leather jacket) while on location.
- Carry small amounts of cash at any time.
- Consider carrying a high-powered whistle with you at all times. This can be used to notify others in an emergency.



SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR FILM COMMUNITY TO CONSIDER

- If you are alone at night and walking on the sidewalk and feel even REMOTELY unsafe, it is better to walk in the middle of the street than on the sidewalk where you can be easily attacked
- Do not leave visible equipment items in your vehicles, trucks, etc. and be sure to lock vehicles even if the shooting location is close by. If you need to store equipment in your trunk or in the back of a van, make sure to do that before you arrive at a location to avoid someone seeing what you are storing and make sure you cover your valuables.
- Do not be prone to distractions from others outside of the crew. This is a common tactic used by thieves to get an individual to look one way while another steals equipment in the direction no one is looking.
- Consider hiring security 24/7 at the production offices. Even in prep and wrap, as needed.
- Consider hiring enough security for overnight watches so security staff does not feel threatened.
- When hiring security for a location, ask the security company if they have any knowledge of criminal activity or other issues in the particular shooting area(s).
- You can hire SFPD to be with you as a presence on a shoot, which may act as a deterrent, but they are not there to guard your equipment.
- If your production cannot afford police, call the non-emergency number of the Dept. of Emergency Management (415-553-0123) and ask them to connect you to the district station of the area in which you will be filming. Give the district station the locations of your filming and the times you will begin and wrap. Ask them for a passing call, so that the officers on patrol can make passes by your production whenever possible.
- You can check crime stats for an area at <https://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/sanfrancisco> although this does not mean a similar crime will happen in the future. You can also check with SFPD media relations at 415-837-7395 or sfpdmediarelations@sfgov.org if you have specific questions about crimes in areas where you are filming.
- Build a relationship with the community and non-profits in the area before your production so that they can have your back, too. Check with Film SF or MONS (Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services at (415) 554-5977 for the best contacts in the area where you are filming.
- Do not hesitate to call 911 if you feel a situation is escalating to an emergency. Be articulate with the dispatcher as they will ask several questions in order to help you.

In short, use common sense:

- Stay Alert, Have a Plan, Trust Your Instincts
- Tools in Crime Prevention: Time, Light, Noise, and Human Activity
- Be a Good Witness: Know whom to call, Follow up, Know your resources (medical assistance, police assistance)
- **For more info go to:** <https://sfsafe.org/personal-safety/>