

# PRÄVENTION *konkret*

## Going out and coming back home - safely!

As at: 9/2017

Whether you go to a fair, the park, a concert or a late-night cinema showing, wherever there are people moving about there is always a risk of threats to personal safety. The Saxon Police offer the following tips on how you can enhance your own safety:

- Plan how you will get to your destination and back again, particularly if you are going out in the evening or at night. Find out about bus and rail connections, or consider taking a taxi as an alternative.
- If you use public transport without a companion, always sit or stand close to the driver.
- It can help to travel in a group, rather than alone. Stand close to other people when you are at bus stops or stations.
- Try to avoid threatening situations, or remove yourself from the area as quickly as possible.
- Keep your distance from people who are drunk. Under the influence of alcohol, people's inhibitions against violent behaviour are significantly lowered.
- Do not provoke, do not insult offenders and do not resort to violence yourself.

### If you witness a violent incident:

- Provide help without endangering yourself.
- Actively and directly urge other people to help.
- Observe the situation precisely and make a mental note of the offender's appearance.
- Organise help by calling the emergency number 110.
- Look after any victims.
- Make yourself available as a witness.

For more information see:  
[www.aktion-tu-was.de](http://www.aktion-tu-was.de)



### If you have been the victim of a violent incident:

If necessary, after a violent incident seek specialist counselling from victim support institutions to help you cope with your experiences.

Victim support institutions in your area can be found at: [www.odabs.de](http://www.odabs.de)



- Speak to the offender in a loud voice and address the person using the polite "Sie" form: "Lassen Sie mich in Ruhe!" (Leave me in peace!). This will signal to bystanders that this is not a private quarrel.
- Do not hesitate to speak to witnesses and potential helpers at an early stage, and tell them what assistance you expect from them, e.g.: "Sie in der blauen Jacke, bitte rufen Sie die Polizei!" (You in the blue jacket, please call the police!).
- Use a whistle, handbag alarm or similar device to attract attention.
- However, avoid using such self-defence devices as pepper spray, stun guns or weapons for personal protection. These could be snatched away and used against you, or they could contribute to an escalation of the situation. Furthermore, by using them improperly you might lay yourself open to criminal charges. Besides, to outside observers is not clear who is the offender and who is seeking help.
- If possible, make a mental note of any distinctive aspects of the offender's appearance, e.g. spectacles, tattoos or piercings.

As a matter of principle: Report every incident to the police! You can file a complaint at any police station or online at: [www.polizei.sachsen.de](http://www.polizei.sachsen.de).

More information regarding your safety is available at: [www.polizei-beratung.de](http://www.polizei-beratung.de)