Sydney is generally a safe city by world standards, however, as with any other large city it is important to be aware of your surroundings and take reasonable precautions to stay safe. The information contained in this booklet has been developed to give you information about avoiding problems in many of the places you will visit in Sydney and who to tell if you have any concerns for your safety. It is therefore important that you enter the contact numbers provided into your phone now, rather than waiting until a problem arises. It is also a good idea to practice what you will say if you every need to call for assistance.

PUT THESE NUMBERS IN YOUR PHONE!!

Emergency Police, Fire and Ambulance: 000
NSW Police (non-emergency): 131 444
University of Sydney Campus Security: 9351 3333

USEFUL WEB RESOURCES


See the Living in Australia section for further information on staying safe in Australia.


Useful tips on staying safe on public transport in a variety of languages.


Safety information for Sydney trains.


Water safety information.


Information on safety provided by the University’s security service.
PUBLIC PLACES

Things to be aware of

Safety may change at different time of day. Places that are busy and well lit in the day, may be dark and quiet at night such as shopping malls and train stations. Places where people go shopping in the day may also become places where people drink alcohol at night, changing the level of safety.

Avoiding problems

- Stay in groups where possible and walk with confidence. Don’t slouch and look at the ground as you walk.
- Be aware of people following you, people acting aggressively or strangers talking to you. It is better to not respond to questions and be rude than to be unsafe.
- Avoid dark and isolated places. It is better to take a longer route that is well lit and has lots of people around when walking at night.
- Don’t bring valuables such as i-pads, computers or large amounts of cash with you if possible. Keep valuables out of sight if you do bring them.

What to do if a problem occurs

- Try to leave the area quickly. Go to a busy place.
- Make noise to attract attention. Practice what you will yell.
- Think whether it is better to give your valuables to a robber than risk being hurt.
- Thinking about how to act in different circumstances and practising will help you to respond appropriately.
- If you are attached, try to remember as many details about the attacker as possible such as how tall, skin hair eye colour, tattoos, moles, clothing.
- Call police as soon as possible.

Who to tell

Police 000

AT HOME

Things to be aware of

Most injuries that require hospitalisation occur in the home.

Burglary although not common, does occur in Sydney.

Avoiding problems

- Get a first-aid kit for your home. Most pharmacies sell kits that contain all of the equipment necessary to apply basic first-aid.
- Lock doors and windows when you are out and when you are home to deter burglars. Beware of giving out home address on social media. Burglars may use this information to find out when you are away.
- Be aware of strangers coming to your front door. Don’t let strangers into the house. This includes tradespeople and your landlord unless prior arrangements have been made.
• Make sure you have a working smoke alarm. All rental properties must have a working smoke alarm.

• Know where your nearest fire escape is.

**What to do if a problem occurs**

• Apply first-aid to cuts, burns or other injuries and call an ambulance.

• If you think that your house has been broken into, don’t go in. Call police immediately.

• If suspicious strangers come to your house, call the police. You can also call the police if your landlord comes to your home without giving you notice.

• If you have a fire, stay low and exit the property as quickly as possible.

**Who to tell**

• Emergency police, fire or ambulance: 000

• Poison information: 131 126

• Landlord if you have concerns about fire safety.

**AT CET/ UNIVERSITY**

**Things to be aware of**

Some parts of the campus can be dark and isolated at night. Classes may finish at night, especially during Winter. It is sometimes necessary to carry valuable items on campus.

**Avoiding problems**

• A free shuttle bus operates between the University and Redfern station from 4:15 – 9:30 Monday to Friday. Use this bus if you have evening classes.

• Avoid walking quiet and or isolated areas. Use preferred pedestrian routes. A map is available on the Security Services website.

• If you drive to University, think about where you park. Ask Security for an escort to your car if you are worried about where you parked.

**What to do if a problem occurs**

• Try to leave the area quickly.

• Make noise to attract attention. Practice what you will yell.

• Notify campus security or the police immediately if you are worried about your safety or if you notice anything suspicious.

**Who to tell**

• Campus Security: 9351 3333

• Police: 000
ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Things to be aware of

Robberies and assaults are uncommon, but do sometimes occur on public transport. People also are sometimes injured by falling onto train tracks or being hit by buses and taxis.

Avoiding problems

- Travel in groups when possible.
- When going out late, plan how to get home beforehand. Have enough money for your trip home.
- Plan your trip to avoid long waits at train stations or bus stops. Read timetables and wait in areas that have lots of light or in local shops.
- If you drive to a train station or bus stop, park as close as possible and that will be well-lit at night.
- If travelling at night, consider taking taxi from the train station to home.
- When travelling on trains at night, travel next to guard’s compartment or in carriages with many people.
- Never try to board a train after the guard’s whistle blows and the doors are closing.
- Use guardian services on Friday and Saturday nights. Information is at http://www.cityrail.info/travelling_with/safety_and_education/guardian
- When on the bus, sit near the bus driver.
- Avoid waiting isolated bus stops

What to do if a problem occurs

- Change carriage if you are alone in a carriage or other people are making you feel uncomfortable.
- Use the emergency help point on newer trains if you feel unsafe. Call police if you can’t find a help point.
- Yell for help when train stops.
- Notify bus driver of any problems.

Who to tell

- Use bright orange emergency help points at stations or on trains to notify staff.
- Notify any staff that you can see.
- Bus driver on buses.
- Police 000
IN AND AROUND WATER

Things to be aware of

In 2011 149 people drowned in beaches and rivers in Australia: beaches, rivers and swimming pools can be dangerous if care is not taken. The Australian sun is also very strong and can cause severe sunburn. Other potential threats to safety can include stingers, sharks and if travelling in Northern Australia, even crocodiles. It is also wise to be wary of thieves when swimming.

Avoiding problems

- When at the beach, always swim between flags. No flags means no swimming, no matter how safe the water may look.

- Don’t take valuables wherever possible. Buy shorts that have a key string or armbands with a key holder so you can take your house or car keys with you in the water. You can buy these at most surf shops.

- Cover up when in the sun, especially in Summer. Wear sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and sit in the shade

- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol to prevent dehydration.

- Don’t swim or surf at dawn or dusk. Get out of water if lots of bait fish or murky water.

- Don’t go into flooded rivers or other water ways under any circumstances, including when in a car.

What to do if a problem occurs

- If you are caught in a rip at the beach, put hand up and stay afloat. A lifeguard will come to your aid. Try to stay calm and don’t try swim against current.

- Notify police or lifeguards immediately if you notice suspicious people or any of your property is missing.

- Only swim in designated swimming areas of rivers. If unsure, ask locals where it is safe to swim.

- Don’t swim if there are stingers in the water. Blue bottles are common in Sydney during Summer. If stung remove all of the tentacles. Wash the area in lot of sea water then immerse the affected area in the hottest water possible. If no hot water is available, use ice wrapped in a cloth. Tell lifeguards or call an ambulance if the pain is severe or the patient has trouble breathing.

- For severe or painful sunburn, drink plenty of water and take frequent cold showers. Put aloe-vera or moisturiser on burns. See a doctor, go to hospital or call an ambulance if vomiting, blurred vision or severe headaches occurs.

Who to tell if you have a problem

- Beach lifeguards wearing red and yellow.

- Police or Ambulance 000