Safety Tips to make your IAFP 2021 Experience Safe and Enjoyable

STREET SENSE

Remove Convention IDs: Remove your name badge when outside of the convention facility.

Buddy System: There is safety in numbers. Walk with people you know or at least where other people are walking.

Just Say, “No!”: If approached by homeless people asking for cash, and if you feel compelled to give, it is much better to donate to charitable organizations. Avoid street solicitors.

Scan the Environment: Look for well-lit streets and areas you feel safe. Select routes that are the shortest between your destination and hotel or conference center but avoid deserted areas. Be observant.

Walk with Confidence: Communicate the message that you are calm, confident, know where you are going, and know what is going on around you.

HOTEL SAFETY

Escape Routes: Whether in the meeting room or your guest room, locate the nearest exits in case of an emergency. Remember an emergency could occur at the most inopportune time and in the dark. Keep a small flashlight on your bedside table. Consider leaving your shoes and clothing next to the bed if you need to run out the door. Keep your room key accessible.

Hotel Door: Use all locking devices on doors and windows. Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Don’t let anyone in the room without knowing who they are and why they are there. If in doubt, call the front desk.

TRAVEL SMART

Identification: Be careful leaving valuables, computers, purses and especially your ID in meeting rooms. At a minimum, make a copy of your driver’s license so if it were lost officials could use the information.

Passports: Do not carry your passport with you once you arrive at the convention city. Make a copy of your passport and carry the copy with you. Leave your passport in the hotel safe or at the hotel’s front desk safe.

Cash: Do not carry all of your cash with you. Always leave some cash in your hotel room safe or in the hotel’s front desk safe. Avoid displaying large amounts of cash or other tempting items.

Purses: Try not to carry a purse, but if you must, carry it securely under your arm. Never wrap the purse strap around your arm. Do not enter a tug-of-war with a thief trying to grab your purse. You could be seriously injured.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

At the hotel or convention center, use the emergency phones within the facility so that building security can easily locate you within the building and direct the emergency services correctly to assist you. Remember, the building security works directly with the emergency services and knows how to handle emergency situations.

Dial “911” for emergencies outside of your hotel or the convention center.

Adapted from information provided by Visit Houston.