

THEFT OF JEWELLERY FROM SENIORS

The SPVM is launching several initiatives to protect seniors from theft and fraud. Seniors are often vulnerable targets for fraudsters and thieves, which is why we have to insist on the importance to remain vigilant.

Modus operandi

The suspects target their victims on the street, on the front porch or at the bus stop. They act alone, in pairs and sometimes in groups of up to four people. They come very close to their victims and frequently offer (fake) jewellery, putting it directly on the victim's neck or wrist and taking advantage of this movement to underhandedly steal the valuable jewellery they are wearing. The perpetrators then quickly leave the scene.

Other tricks are also used to steal things from people walking in the streets: requests for information using a street map, requests to take photos, etc.

Prevention tips

- Be wary of distractions and pushy behaviour by strangers (jewellery, road map, flat tire, etc.); they might take advantage of a moment of distraction to rob you.
- Always keep your handbag in front of you, rather than to the side or slightly behind, so you can always keep an eye on it.
- Be wary of jostling or crowding around you. This might be a diversion often used by thieves. At the same time, an accomplice could take your wallet and/or your jewellery.
- When you enter a shop, avoid showing your money. Be discreet, because someone may be watching you.

The SPVM and its partners are also asking family members, friends and neighbours of seniors to keep a watchful eye on them. The risk of theft and fraud is very real, and we should all be concerned about it.

Anyone who has information about this matter, who has witnessed an event or who has been victimized by such people is encouraged to go to their neighbourhood police station or to [call 9-1-1](tel:911).