SAFETY TIPS FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

BE SAFE

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

**Cash:** Do not carry all of your cash with you. Always leave enough cash in your hotel room safe or in the hotel safe to get you through the convention should you lose your money or be robbed. Otherwise, you could easily end up at the convention with no money at all and have difficulty getting home. Avoid displaying large amounts of cash or other tempting items.

**Try Not to Carry a Purse:** But if you must, carry it securely under your arm. Never wrap the purse strap around your arm or enter a tug-of-war with a thief trying to grab your purse. You could be seriously injured.

**Passports:** Do not carry your passport with you once you arrive at the convention destination. Make copies of your passport BEFORE you leave home and keep a copy at home and take one with you. Leave your passport in your hotel room safe or in the hotel safe. Most important, do NOT carry it with you. If it is stolen or lost, obtaining a new one in order to get home can be difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming and could even delay your return home.

STREET SMART

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

**Be Confident:** Communicate the message that you are calm, confident, know where you are going, and know what is going on around you.

**Remove Convention ID’s:** Leave the convention tote bags back in the room and be discreet with your name badge when out in the public. These are sure signs you are a tourist and become an easy target.

**Buddy System:** Safety in numbers. Periodically check on each other and agree on departure times.

**Donations:** Just say “No!” or keep walking in a well-lit public area if a stranger approaches. If you feel compelled to donate, please find our fundraising booth at the conference.

**CONFERENCE HOTELS**

- Hyatt Regency (614)463-1234
- Crowne Plaza (614)461-4100
- Hampton Inn & Suites (614)559-2000
- Drury Inn (614)221-7008

**HOTEL SAFETY**

**Escape Routes & Doors:** Whether in the meeting room or guest room, notice the nearest exits in case of an emergency. Consider leaving your shoes, clothing, and cell phone next to the bed if you need to run out the door. Keep the room key accessible. Do not let a stranger in your room if they do not have a uniform or badge. Make sure your door closes when leaving your room.

**LOCAL HOSPITALS & PHARMACIES**

- Grant Medical Center (closest to venue) (614)566-9000
- OSU Wexner Medical Center (614)293-8000
- Riverside Methodist Hospital (614)566-5000
- Mt. Carmel West (downtown) (614)234-5000
- CVS Pharmacy (24 hrs. 5 mi. distance) (614)878-7565
- CVS Pharmacy (.88 mi distance) (614)224-9275

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

- Greater Columbus Convention Center (614)827-2500
- Experience Columbus Housing (800)354-2657
- Columbus Police Dept. (non-emergency) (614)645-4545
- Columbus Fire Dept. (non-emergency) (614)221-3132

**TRANSPORTATION NUMBERS**

- Meeting Motion Airport Shuttle Service (614)562-8844
- Arch Express Airport Service (800)325-1882
- Supreme Limousine Service (614)880-9600
- Columbus Yellow Cab Company (614)444-4444
- COTA C-Bus (614)228-1776
- COTA C-Bus (TTY/TTD) (614)275-5878

**LOCAL NEWS STATIONS**

- NBC4 – CH 4
- WSYX – CH 6
- WBNS – CH 10
- WTTE – CH 28 (FOX 28)