



February 14, 2019

In response to concerns of recent robberies in the area the Oakdale Police Department is sharing this information. Oakdale has responded to seven robberies in the community during the past six months. A brief description of the criminal activity follows.

August 14, 2018: Officers responded to Marcus Theater (5677 Hadley Ave N) for a suspicious persons report. The reporting party and his wife were walking through the parking lot and a small black hatchback drove by occupied by two black males, the passenger leaned out and attempted to grab his wife's purse. The purse was not taken. No further description of vehicle or occupants.

September 23, 2018: Officers responded to Dollar Tree (7085 10th St N) for a report the store employee was robbed at gunpoint for cash from the store register. The case is under investigation.

November 11, 2018: Officers responded to Marathon Gas Station (1015 Geneva Ave N) for a report the store employee was robbed at gunpoint for cash from the store register. The case is under investigation.

December 14, 2018: Officers responded to Fleet Farm (5635 Hadley Ave N) for a report of a shoplifting, cart push-out of power tools. While the crime was in progress, the loss prevention officer was assaulted. The criminal activity is coded as robbery. The case is under investigation.

January 27, 2019: Officers responded to a report of a robbery at the Dollar Tree (7085 10<sup>th</sup> St N). The female victim indicated she was shoved by two young African American males and her purse taken while she was loading items into her vehicle in the parking lot. The males fled on foot.

February 3, 2019: Officers responded to a report of a robbery at Hy-Vee. The female victim reported she had just unloaded her groceries and was returning her cart when a black male passenger of a light blue Volkswagen Passat reached out of the vehicle to grab her purse. The victim was dragged approximately three parking spaces. The suspect was unable to get her purse and let go. The victim sustained scrapes on her hands and leg and declined medical attention. The victim obtained a vehicle license plate number. With that information, it was discovered the vehicle was reported stolen from St. Paul. The vehicle was later located and has been processed for evidence. The case is still under investigation awaiting laboratory results and identification of suspects.

February 12, 2019: Officers responded to a reported robbery at Hy-Vee. A female victim reported two teenaged black males approximately 5'6 tall, pushed her down and attempted to take her purse. The males did not get the purse and fled in a dark colored SUV.

The most recent described purse-snatching events have occurred between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. No Weapons have been implied or displayed. At this time the suspects have not been identified. However, someone knows something. These activities occurred in public view. If you See Something, Say Something. If you see a citizen in trouble immediately dial 911 to alert authorities provide a description and get help coming.

The Police Department encourages members of the community to focus on the behaviors of all the people in your immediate vicinity in a public place. Patterns of reported individual criminal behavior should never be allowed to create general impressions of any particular race, ethnic group or age group. These descriptors are simply facts reported by the victims of these offenses. All suspicious behavior should immediately be reported to the police department.

The Oakdale Police Department continues to investigate these cases and extra patrol has been assigned to patrol units.

These are crimes of opportunity and the Oakdale Police Department further encourages the public to be vigilant regardless of location and to make a conscious awareness shift as you prepare to leave a location (campus, workplace, retail, etc.) and travel in public spaces.

- Survey the parking lot – look around.
- Plan your parking in well-lit areas in full-view of people or activities.
- Avoid displaying jewelry or a loose purse.
- Be alert to your surroundings and keep your senses. Keep your phone accessible however stay hands free and distraction free when possible.
- Organize bulky Items: Bags, packages, briefcases, materials or outer wear to maintain the best possible freedom of movement.
- Walk with groups or ask for assistance from on-site staff, co-workers, friends, etc.
- Walk with confidence, make/maintain eye contact.
- Focus on the behavior. If it doesn't feel right or something is out of place return to an area of safety, dial 911 and report suspicious persons, vehicles or disturbances. That may also include alerting business or security personnel in the area.
- If confronted, avoid risk of injury by giving up property.

While this is not a comprehensive list of robbery prevention tips, these are relevant to the most recent criminal activity reports.

For reference the following is a description of the criminal elements of robbery.

#### 609.24 SIMPLE ROBBERY.

Whoever, having knowledge of not being entitled thereto, takes personal property from the person or in the presence of another and uses or threatens the imminent use of force against any person to overcome the person's resistance or powers of resistance to, or to compel acquiescence in, the taking or carrying away of the property is guilty of robbery and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than ten years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$20,000, or both.

#### 609.245 AGGRAVATED ROBBERY.

Subdivision 1. First degree. Whoever, while committing a robbery, is armed with a dangerous weapon or any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon, or inflicts bodily harm upon another, is guilty of aggravated robbery in the first degree and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 20 years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$35,000, or both.

Subd. 2. Second degree. Whoever, while committing a robbery, implies, by word or act, possession of a dangerous weapon, is guilty of aggravated robbery in the second degree and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 15 years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$30,000, or both.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 651-702-5204 or email [Michelle.Stark@ci.oakdale.mn.us](mailto:Michelle.Stark@ci.oakdale.mn.us) for community safety information.