

Dear Safety Solutions:

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Excerpt from
**Think Fast-
Talk Fast-
Fight Smart:**

**PERSONAL
SAFETY
WORKSHOP**

Safety Tip:
Everyone should
carry a cell phone
(with or without a
camera), if only for
car emergencies.

Make sure it's
always fully
charged and
preset to dial
"911."

If you have the
occasion to use
your camera
phone to
photograph a
criminal in action,
try to do it on the
down-low, so he
doesn't come after
you and attempt to
destroy the
evidence.

Camera Phones: The New Wrinkle in the Fight Against Crime

Cell phones have become an amazingly important weapon in the fight against crime and camera phones are a new wrinkle in this ongoing battle. They're responsible for apprehending a whole mess of criminals and saving many potential victims. Several recent incidents come to mind.

A 15-year-old New Jersey boy used quick thinking to foil an abduction attempt

when he snapped pictures with his camera cell phone of a man who was attempting to lure him into a car. He also photographed the car's license plate. Police were able to arrest the suspected abductor the very next day and praised the youngster for his presence of mind. In Tennessee, an equally sharp limo driver used his camera phone to photograph a man who'd

robbed him earlier that week—after he spotted his assailant's pickup truck on the street. Police picked up the culprit within ten minutes.



Locally, in Queens, a scared but determined high school girl kept her cool and took a camera phone picture of a serial

**** Quick Thinking Coupled With High Tech Aid — Unbeatable ****

Flasher who'd exposed himself to her on a crowded F-train platform at 7:30am. She ran to a policeman with the phone; the pervert was identified on the spot and arrested. About four months after this incident, another NYC subway-riding woman was confronted by a flasher who exposed himself while sitting directly across from her in the subway car. Not only did she photograph him (which led to his arrest), but she posted his image on internet, insuring the pervert will get exposure for years to come rather

than the 3-6 month sentence (if that!) typically imposed for this most trivialized of crimes.

Other examples of "camera phone justice" and techno-policing are sure to occur in the future, since more and more people are embracing this new technology.

One Caveat. Someone e-mailed me a story about a woman in her neighborhood who was raped as she stood on a street corner talking on her cell phone. She'd become so absorbed in the call, she forgot to pay

attention to what was going on around her.

It's perfectly understandable that people will get or make calls on their cell phone when they're out at night. Simply use common sense; no one deserves to become a crime victim of any kind because of a mistake in judgment! Criminals overwhelmingly say their preferred target is someone who's preoccupied, so don't let your cell phone become a distraction—NO MATTER THE TIME OR PLACE—and prevent you from staying alert.