



THE REALITY OF KIDNAPPING

In the wake of the two kidnappings which have made headlines over the last few days, Fidelity ADT has issued a general alert. Parents have been urged to empower their children, teenagers and young adults with all the information necessary to respond to any crisis or act of criminality.

“As parents and guardians, it is our responsibility to not only educate our children about safety but to also give them the necessary tools to deal with a crisis. While we certainly don’t want to live in fear, we do need to have frank conversations about what to do when things go wrong,” explained Charnel Hattingh, national communications and marketing manager at Fidelity ADT.

There are simple actions which can often keep a child or young adult safe.

Teach your kids:

- They must always walk to or from school with a friend or friends. Stick to streets they know and never take short cuts through quiet areas or empty parking lots and never walk with cell phones and iPads in full view.
- If they get picked up at school, they should never leave the premises but always wait inside the school grounds for their lift to arrive.
- Younger children in particular, must never get into a stranger’s car; even if the stranger claims that someone they love is hurt and that they have been sent to pick them up. Remind them that you would never send someone they don’t know to fetch them.
- Consider using a password system. If the person coming to collect you from school cannot repeat the password you and your child agreed on, they should not get into the car but immediately ask for help.
- If a stranger approaches your child, they should not talk to them no matter how friendly they may seem. If someone tries to grab them, they need to fight, kick and shout. “That very action may have saved the young student’s life in Johannesburg this week,” said Hattingh.
- If your child does encounter any suspicious activity,

encourage them to get a good look and memorise their physical details and clothing, as well as the vehicle they are in. Listen for any names or other details that might help identify them later.

- Make sure your children memorise their full names, address and phone number. Using a play phone, teach them when and how to dial 10111.
- If they are older, they should have some emergency numbers programmed into their phone or consider having a safety App on their phone.

Remind Students:

- Older children should be reminded to keep their valuables out of sight at all times and not to use headphones because this will dampen their ability to sense their surroundings. “The more you cut your senses off the easier it is for someone to take you by surprise. Stay alert!” said Hattingh.
- Alter their route: If they are walking home or to public transport, they need to alter their route. “Even if it takes longer, always use a route that is well lit and populated with houses and other walkers instead of taking shortcuts through less-friendly areas. If you feel threatened, you can at least knock on someone’s door for help if you’re walking through a familiar neighbourhood.”
- If you are using a taxi service, ensure it is a bona fide service provider.
- Be extra cautious when meeting anyone who befriends you on social media. Always meet in a public space with two or three friends as backup.
- Be cautious if approached by people offering you a job or modelling contract. Remember safety in numbers.

“Quite simply, the same rules that apply to adults need to be instilled in children and young adults and if someone cannot be found, it is vital to report this to the authorities immediately,” concluded Hattingh.

Fidelity ADT press release, 3 September 2019

SEPTEMBER FUEL INCREASES...

Weakness in the Rand drove fuel prices higher in September. This is according to the unaudited month-end fuel price data released by the Central Energy Fund, in a press release by the Automobile Association (AA) on 28 August.

According to the figures, 95 octane will rise by ten cents a litre, and diesel by 25 cents. Illuminating paraffin is also expected to climb by 21 cents. The only positive out of the latest figures is 93 octane which is showing a decrease of three cents a litre.

The average landed price of fuel dropped across the board during August. If the Rand/US dollar exchange rate had remained flat, we could have expected a drop of up to 30 cents a litre for diesel and nearly 52 cents for petrol. Unfortunately, the continuing weakness of the Rand means that prices will increase instead.

AA press release 28 August 2019



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