

Crime Prevention

Japan is regarded as one of the safest countries in the world, and Miyazaki Prefecture is regarded as one of the safest places in Japan. However, even so, we certainly can't say that there is no crime at all in the prefecture. It's important to think about how to live safely and securely, and make some effort to do so yourself. It's also important for everyone to become a part of their local community, and form good relationships with the people around us. That's why, in this month's *Living In Miyazaki*, we'd like to share some advice on how to live safely and securely.

- **Passport and Residence Card**

- Your passport and Residence Card are important documents that can prove your identity. Whenever you go outside, make sure to keep either your passport or Residence Card with you at all times.
- If a Police officer asks to see your passport or Residence Card, make sure to show them.
- Take good care not to lose either your passport or Residence Card.



- **Things you can do to reduce your risk of being a victim of crime:**

- Whenever you go outside, check to make sure you have closed all your windows and locked your door to discourage burglars.
- After parking your car, motorcycle, scooter, bicycle or other vehicle, make sure to lock it. There has been an increase in the number of bicycle thefts recently, even in Miyazaki. Get into the habit of locking up your car or bike whenever you park.
- If the worst should happen and your bike gets stolen, if you have registered the bike with the police under the bicycle registration system, if the police find the bike they will return it to you. When you buy a bicycle, we strongly recommend you register it with the police. If you buy a used bicycle, for example from a friend, it is necessary to update the bike registry, so make sure to ask a bicycle shop to help.
- Try and avoid going out at night. If you have to do so, make sure to travel along busier well-lit roads and carry a personal alarm with you.
- Before you go to sleep, get into the habit of checking to make sure you have locked your front door and closed all your windows.



- **If you are the victim of a crime:**

- If you have been the victim of an assault or mugging, call 110 straight away.
- If you return to find your apartment has been ransacked or interfered with, without touching anything, call 110 right away.
- If you are injured, let your friends, relatives and coworkers know, go to hospital, and then inform the police.
- If your car or bike has been stolen, inform the police right away.



- **How to contact the Emergency Services:**

- Dial 110 in the event of a crime or accident. Dial 119 in the event of serious illness, injury or fire. Don't use either number unless it is an emergency.
- Let the operator know what has happened, when and where (including the names of any nearby buildings or landmarks), and if anyone is injured. Also, let them know your name.
- If you are unable to make the call yourself, ask someone nearby for assistance.



★If it is not an emergency, but you still have a problem you would like to discuss with the police, you can dial #9110 (this number is also available from mobile phones). However, this service is only available in Japanese.

For more detailed information about crime prevention, please visit the website of the prefectural police here in Miyazaki (www.pref.miyazaki.lg.jp/police).

*The above website is also available machine-translated into 18 different languages.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about this article, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation:

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If you have any other questions, worries or concerns in your daily life here, feel free to get in touch with the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents:

TEL 0985-41-5901 FAX 0985-41-5902 Email support@mif.or.jp