



Public violence, protests, road closures and preparedness for emergencies

Preparedness for Civil Unrest in Areas of Protests

- Safety always starts with planning: The best way not to become part of any unrest situation is to not be there in the first place.
- If you are aware of trouble in an area and it is not essential to travel, delay your journey or find alternate routes.
- Monitor media and social media and listen to the local radio station for radio reports and traffic updates.
- If in doubt about the safety of an area, phone a police station in the area for advice.



Vehicle Safety in areas of Protest and Civil Unrest

- Ensure that your vehicle is in good condition when you plan to go on a journey.
- Ensure that the fuel tank of your vehicle always has sufficient fuel.
- Always lock your vehicle's doors and keep the windows closed.
- Do not be seen using your cellular phone.
- Do not leave valuables such as handbags and briefcases within clear sight of anyone approaching your vehicle.



Defensive and Non-Provocative Driving in Areas of Protests/ Riots

- It's important that anyone driving in an area affected by unrest understands that the SAPS will probably have blocked off a road to prevent entry.
- Trust and obey instructions from police and traffic officials. Don't put yourself in any danger by disobeying them.
- If traffic has become congested – do not drive in the emergency lane, thereby endangering the lives of those who may need urgent medical attention.
- Keep your car moving as far as you can, whilst checking for possible escape routes.
- If you find yourself heading into the path of a crowd, and it is possible - turn down the nearest side road, reverse or turn around and drive away calmly.
- Remember that conflict can only continue with participation – the protest may have nothing to do with you - do not participate.
- Avoid hitting any protestors with your vehicle, as this may turn the mob against you.
- Do not taunt the protestors with provocative gestures such as shouting, gesticulating or hooting at them.

Safety and Valuables

- Always remember that your life is irreplaceable and worth more than earthly possessions.
- If you are stuck and the situation seems to be turning, leave your car and get out of the area on foot.
- Do not try to carry baggage away from your vehicle - your life is more valuable than your car or possessions.

Source: Arrive Alive

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info@24-7security.co.za



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0800 00 21 26

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NETCARE
082911
24HR EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

011 444 2237
www.24-7security.co.za