

PROTEST SAFETY

Properly prepare yourself. Stay hydrated and dress for the expected weather. Bring any needed supplies including water, meds, and cash. Keep a first aid kit available. Wear a face covering. Let at least one emergency contact know your plan. Make arrangements to keep them posted on your status during and after the event. **Use ONLY water to treat pepper spray.**

Maintain “360 situational awareness”. Know what is going on all around you at all times. Be alert to anything that seems suspicious, this could be a person’s behavior, unclaimed packages, unusual activity, and vehicles. If you see something, say something.

Avoid direct police contact. Whenever possible, avoid contact with police, military, or counter-protestors. Follow instructions from event organizers about where to protest and when to move.

Maintain physical distancing and do not have close physical contact with others. This means do not shake hands, hug, or have extended face-to-face conversations with others.

Do not run. Avoid running to close a gap or move away unless absolutely necessary. Move slowly as a group.

Protect your identity and the identity of others. Do not post pictures of people’s faces on social media. If you do post pictures, make sure faces are covered or obscured and you do not post until you are home.

Use white/cisgender privilege to protect others. Put yourself peacefully between police and Black, Brown and LGBTQ+ people if they are exposed to police or public repression. You can also film arrests and police activity. If you are arrested, continuously ask for the status/condition of at-risk protesters.

Be aware that undercover police may be in the crowd. Be wary of individuals who forcefully advocate for violence, especially when the crowd or organizers seem peaceful, or try to encourage others to join them in violent action. Don’t engage with them unless absolutely necessary.

Protect your cell phone privacy. Lock your phone, turn off thumb and/or face unlock, disable location services on all your apps, turn off notifications on your home screen, disable Siri/Alexa, and leave your phone locked when taking photos and videos. Fully charge your cell phone and bring a battery extender if possible.

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