

Holiday Safety Tips from the Safety and Security Department

At Home:

- If you plan an extended trip, temporarily discontinue mail delivery or ask a trusted neighbor to take in your mail.
- Give your home an occupied appearance by leaving the lights on or using an automatic timer.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through window/doors of your home.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Be alert to criminals soliciting/trying to take advantage of your generosity.

While You Are Out:

- Don't use shortcuts through alleys or walkways; stay in well-lit and well-traveled areas.
- Shop with friends or relatives – there is safety in numbers.
- If you must take a purse, carry it close to your body with the clasp nearest you. Never leave it unattended (in a shopping cart, on a counter, or on the back of a restaurant chair).
- Cash should be carried in a front pants pocket. Do not display large sums of cash.
- Limit the number of credit cards by only taking the ones you plan to use.
- Be alert for suspicious individuals loitering in parking lots.

In Your Car:

- Buckle up yourself and your family; use the car seat for small children.
- Lock your doors immediately upon entering your vehicle and while driving.
- Never carry your keys in your purse – keep them in your pocket. When returning to your car or home, have your keys in your hand.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you are parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running.
- Never leave valuables in plain view – place them in the trunk for safekeeping.
- Use the “panic” or “alarm” button on your keys if you feel fearful or suspicious.
- Always lock your car, even if you are only going to be gone for a few minutes.

The Safety and Security team wishes you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season!