



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



HOME:



- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.



SHOPPING:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- If you do carry a wallet or purse, be extra careful. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.

CHILDREN:

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security.

DRIVING:



- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children or pets inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car.

STRANGERS AT YOUR DOOR:

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- It is not uncommon to criminals to take advantage by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved.
- Ask for their identification, and find out how the donated funds will be used.

