



HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY TIPS

Holidays are special times to be shared with family and friends. Help protect yourself and loved ones by following these safety tips.

At Home

- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- When going on trips or out for the evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Make note of make, model, and serial numbers on valuables.
- Don't advertise what you got for Christmas by putting the boxes out on trash day. Break the boxes down or take them to the dump yourself.

When Shopping

- **First and foremost be aware of your surroundings** and the people around you. Don't be distracted while walking to and from your vehicle. This includes fumbling with your purse or packages, looking for keys, and using a cell phone. Have the key in hand when you approach your vehicle.
- Shop during the day. If you must shop in the evening consider shopping with a friend.
- Keep items in your vehicle out of sight. It's best to lock packages and other valuables in the trunk.
- Park in well lit areas. Try to avoid parking next to trucks, vans, dumpsters, and other objects that obstruct visibility and provide hiding places.
- Avoid parking or walking near strangers loitering or sitting in vehicles.
- Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry large sums of cash. When charging an item, make sure you get your card back.
- Carry purses next to your body with the purse flap against you and locked or zipped. Use a strap that goes diagonally across your body. Carry wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Have someone escort you to your vehicle if you are especially concerned about safety. Or wait until others are around to walk with.
- Lock the doors immediately after getting in your vehicle.
- Don't resist or argue with an armed subject. Be a good witness paying special attention to physical features and vehicle information.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or shopping mall.
- Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see any suspicious people or activities.
- If you are a victim of a crime, call **911** to report it police immediately.