

December Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

Holiday Season is supposed to be the happiest time of the year. During this time though, criminal activity and other threats to public safety can ruin the season for all of us. The Holiday shopping season is one of the busiest of the year. I have some tips to make yours a safe and secure one.

Protect your vehicle:

1. **Map it Out!...** Create a plan for the day of shopping. This will help to alleviate any potential stressors encountered throughout your shopping day.
2. **Practice Patience...** Expect long lines. Remember safety comes first. Always be considerate of other shoppers.
3. **Conceal Your Purchases...** Nothing gets a thief going like a car full of bags that are clearly visible. Lock them in your trunk or place them under seats out of sight. Criminals watch and break in to steal the items when you return to the store or mall. Remember: **Lock-it, Hide-it, Keep-it.**
4. **Protect Yourself...** Women should carry their purses close to their body and men should keep their wallets in their front pocket or in a coat pocket to deter pickpockets. Also, shop in groups if possible and watch for loiterers near and around your vehicle.
5. **Dress for Success....** Dress casually, comfortably, in layers, and expect cold weather. Stay hydrated and well nourished. Also consider leavening small children at home with a trusted family member or babysitter.
6. **Park and be Safe...** Anticipate minimal parking availability. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. When returning to your car, stop, listen, and look around. Stay alert to your surroundings and have your car keys readily available before you get to your vehicle.
7. **Obey the Laws...** Drive the speed limit, stop at stop signs and don't park in handicap spots. Be mindful of pedestrians, especially children. Don't walk in the middle of traffic lanes or jaywalk.
8. **Buckle Up for Safety...** and please be very patient! Low-speed collisions cause injuries too!
9. **Please refrain from texting while driving and walking! Watch out for children!**

While online shopping may seem less dangerous than shopping at big-box retailers these days, don't be fooled about the inherent safety of online shopping. Here are 5 tips to protect yourself on both Black Friday and Cyber Monday:

- 1. Pre-Paid Credit Cards...** The digital age's American Express's traveler's checks. They will protect your daily use credit cards and your back accounts from fraud.
- 2. HTTPS Everywhere...** Free service that allows you to use encrypted traffic where available.
- 3. Fraud Notification...** If your bank has them use them!
- 4. Password Manager...** These programs generate random passwords that can be used at shopping sites and keeps track of them so you don't have to.
- 5. Patch your system...** make sure your computer is up to date with the latest browsers, operating systems, and security software.

Protect Your House with these tips:

- 1. Keep your "check-ins" in check.**

Protect yourself:

- Never allow check-ins at your own home (you'll be alerting potential thieves to your address).
- Don't make comments about items you've purchased or received as gifts.
- Don't check in online when you're out of town.
- Limit sharing information to friends and family by only accepting people you know as friends and followers.

- 2. Remember to lock your door.**

- 3. Don't give vandals or burglars a chance to act.**

Install motion detector lights on all sides of your house, and if possible, make sure they're visible from the road.

- 4. Deny easy access to the garage.**

Protect yourself:

- Never leave your garage door opener in your car.
- Always make sure your garage door is closed and locked, with the inside door secure.
- Don't tempt fate—try not to use the garage as a hiding place for gifts.

- 5. Display the tree, not the gifts.**

Protect yourself:

- Don't put out your gifts until Christmas Eve.
- Dispose of product boxes at a recycling center, not your garbage cans.

There are the traditional holiday parties. They are a great way to celebrate with family and friends. Keep them safe by remembering that alcohol and driving don't mix. 40% of all traffic fatalities during the holiday season involve drivers that are impaired by alcohol. Your Police Department will be out there in force looking for impaired drivers.

Finally, for our citizens who have pets I want to give you some tip to keep them safe during the season.

5 New Year PET SAFETY TIPS!

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DYNAMIC VETERINARY MARKETING

1

WEAR 'EM OUT:
Exercise vigorously before the show so pets can sleep through fireworks

2

ASK ABOUT MEDS:
Some pets need medication to be comfortable. Ask your vet

3

NO PARTY PETS:
Don't leave alcohol where pets could be tempted to imbibe

4

PEACE & QUIET:
Loud noises are extra scary for pets. Put them in the quietest room

5

MICROCHIPS:
Microchip or tag your pet. They can get loose when spooked