



## Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are a special time of year, but they are also a time when busy people become careless and individuals are especially vulnerable to theft and other crimes.

### Out and About and At the Mall:

- Even though you are rushed and thinking about several things, stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Close your windows and lock your car. Do not leave valuables and packages in plain view. Lock your packages in the trunk and drive to a different location to finish shopping.
- Wait for public transportation or rides from friends in busy, well-lit areas.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk and ask for help if you become separated while shopping.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. When possible use a check or credit card to pay for purchases.
- Notify issuers immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused in any way.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. They may become targets for crime in crowded shopping areas, at bus stops, on buses and rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with numerous packages. It is important to have and maintain clear visibility to avoid mishaps and not appear as an easy target.

### Using Extra Security at Home:

- A tree laden with gifts is a one-stop shopping trip for a thief. Hide the expensive gifts or keep them locked in a safe until the last minute. Gift-wrap empty boxes for "effect." Consider setting up your tree or holiday display in an area that does not have full view for passers-by.
- Make certain that your home is **completely secured** when leaving and that lights are left on to make it appear that someone is home. Contact your local Crime Prevention Unit to set up a free Residential Security Inspection to assess and resolve possible vulnerabilities.

