

PUBLIC SAFETY BULLETIN: Holiday Crime Prevention

The holiday season is a time of celebration with friends and family. It can also be a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes. To ensure you have a joyous and safe holiday season, follow these crime-prevention measures.



FULTON
INDUSTRIAL



BOULEVARD
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT

Attending A Holiday Party

If you are going to consume alcoholic beverages, plan to have a designated driver, call a ride share or use public transportation. Never drink and drive.

When At Home

- Be aware that sometimes criminals will pose as couriers delivering gifts to case your home or to commit a crime immediately.
- Be cautious about locking your windows and doors even when you leave the house for a short period of time.
- Be aware of scams that criminals commit to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays.
- Avoid having large displays of gifts visible from windows and doors.
- When you leave your home for extended holiday travel, have a neighbor or friend watch your home while you are away. Have them collect your mail and newspapers while you are gone.
- Place lights, radio and television on timers so that your home appears occupied.

Always Watch Your Children

- If possible, leave small children at home when going shopping.
- If children must go shopping with you, try to keep them close to you at all times.
- Teach children about "stranger danger" and who they can go to for help if they get separated from you. Children should know their full name, address, telephone number and their parent's/guardian's full name to give to police, a store clerk or security if they get separated from you.

When Driving

- Be cautious while driving alone at night.
- Keep all doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your vehicle.
- Never park next to large vehicles or vehicles with heavy tinted windows.
- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with children inside or while it is running.



- Do not leave gifts or other valuables in plain sight in your vehicle; it is an unnecessary temptation for thieves.
- Be aware of your surroundings when approaching or leaving your vehicle.
- Try to stay in a group when approaching your vehicle.
- If security is available, ask for an escort to your vehicle if leaving alone at night.

Pay Attention to How You Dress

- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Carry your wallet in your front pants pocket or your purse securely around your shoulder.

While Shopping

- Even though you are rushed and thinking of a thousand different things, always be aware of your surroundings.
- Minimize shopping at night or alone; you are more susceptible to being victimized at night or while alone.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Take only the cash you need or pay with a credit or debit

card; carry only as many cards as you will need.

- If you must use an ATM, use one inside of a well-populated building or a well-lit area. Only withdraw the amount of cash that you will need for that day.
- Protect your PIN from the view of other people near the ATM.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers at home in a safe location. Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately.
- Be extra careful when carrying a wallet or purse; only carry what you absolutely need in them as they are prime targets for criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals and bus stops.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages whether on your person or in your vehicle.

The holiday season is a great time of year and can be very special. It can also be a tragic time of year if you do not take precautions and practice personal safety measures that can help prevent you or your family from being victimized. Schedule family meetings to discuss these crime-prevention tips and have a happy holiday season.