

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Crime Prevention Tips During the Holidays

Winter - Holiday Safety Tips

Shopping - Traveling

- Plan your day; know where you are going and what you are doing.
- Let a friend or family member know your plans.
- Avoid distractions. Distractions attract criminals.
- Carry a cellular phone and have emergency phone numbers available.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Know where assistance is located.
- Avoid short cuts. Use well -lit and traveled roads.
- Use credit cards if possible; carry enough money to pay for your errands. If carrying a large amount of money, separate your money into the amounts needed and place them in different pockets.
- Secure your purse or wallet after use.
- Have your vehicle checked and maintained according to vehicle specifications.
- Report suspicious persons and packages to the police.
- If you **SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING**.
- Instruct children on the dangers of strangers.
- In case of emergency dial 911.

Vehicle Safety

- Park in well lit areas.
- Lock and secure your car, place packages and other valuables out of sight.
- When returning to your car, try to leave with a group of people.
- Check the outside and inside of the vehicle prior to entering.
- Have your keys available to open the door, get in and then lock the doors.
- Maintain a full tank of gas, keep doors locked and windows closed. If someone tries to get you to stop your vehicle and/or divert your attention, try to stop in a well lit and populated area then contact help.
- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended.
- In case of emergency dial 911.

Scams, Cons and Imposters

- Do not give personal information over the phone to unsolicited callers.
- Do not let strangers in the house to use your phone, bathroom or get a drink of water.
- Do not let a stranger know that you're alone; contact a friend or family member when a stranger is calling on you.
- Be aware that some persons collecting for charities or causes are collecting for themselves, Pick a favorite charity and write a check to that charity.
- Verify unannounced utility workers and schedule a date convenient you.
- Be cautious when providing personal information to unsolicited telephone callers, e-mail and mail.
- Remember if it's too good to be true is usually is.
- In case of emergency dial 911.