

Security News

Western Region Security Office

Winter 2000



Holiday Security Tips

Happy Holidays

The holidays are a special time of the year, but they're also a time when busy people become careless and individuals are especially vulnerable to theft and other crimes. Following are several tips to make the holidays safe and happy for everyone:

WHILE SHOPPING:

Even though you're rushed and doing a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings and the customers around you.

Do not leave children unattended. With holiday shopping crowds on the increase, it can be easy for a small child to get lost.

Do not leave bags unattended. If a purchase has already been made, the merchandise and receipt in the bag are desirable to would-be thieves and makes refunding very easy if the bag is stolen.

Park in a well lighted area. Remember, if you park your vehicle in the morning, you may be returning to it when it is dark. Look around, inside and underneath your car before you get in and have your key ready. If you notice someone suspicious around your vehicle, do not approach it and immediately contact store security or your local police department.

Do not leave valuables in sight in your vehicle. Vehicle prowls increase dramatically during the holiday season and leaving packages, money, purses, etc., in open view inside your car can provide a good target for a thief.

Lock your car and close the windows, even if you're only gone a few minutes. Lock packages in the trunk.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or credit card.

Be careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep wallet in an inside pocket.

AT HOME:

If possible, don't display gifts at home where they can be seen from a window or doorway.

If you go away, get an automatic timer for your lights. Have a neighbor watch your house and pick up mail and newspapers. Call your local police department to find out if they have a vacation house check program.

Don't leave doors open while you carry in large numbers of packages.

Happy Holidays to you and yours from your security staff: Cheryl, Kathy and Joel!

