



# Holiday Season Safety

**During the holiday season, crime rates tend to have a slight up-swing. This is due, in part, to shoppers carrying more cash and credit cards with them, shopping later than usual and being more relaxed. By remaining aware of the holiday season risks you can better protect yourself.**

## Out and About

- Shop during daylight hours and with friends, if possible.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention!
- Don't overload your arms with packages and bags.
- Pick your parking spot wisely. Look for a well-lit area.
- Don't leave your vehicle unattended while the engine is running.
- Have your keys out and ready when approaching your vehicle.
- Be aware of how you carry your purse or wallet and try to carry only the amount of cash you will need to make purchases and limit the number of credit cards to only those necessary.

## Holiday Parties

- Control your alcohol intake.
- If you do drink, remain with your friends.
- Consider how much and what kind of jewelry you are wearing.
- Someone inebriated and alone flaunting expensive jewelry is the recipe for a robbery.

## In Your Home

- Install secondary locks on your windows and doors.
- Light the exterior of your home around doors, windows and driveway.
- Trim hedges, bushes and trees around doors and windows.
- Place gifts where they cannot be seen from outside your home.
- Avoid opening the door to strangers.

## In Your Car

- Don't drive without first locking your doors and closing your windows.
- When walking to your car, try not to do it alone. Go with a friend or group.
- Walk to your car with a purpose.
- Do not exit your car if you see a suspicious situation.
- If you are being followed, go to a populated area and call police.
- Avoid shortcuts that take you through unfamiliar or unsafe areas.
- When stopped in traffic, leave enough room between your car and the one in front of you, in the event you need to pull away quickly.

**Much of the above information is geared toward being aware of where you are, who is around and what is in the environment. If you can control the environment you enter into and pay attention to the things going on around you, you can greatly reduce the possibility that you will become the victim of robbery. A Safe Holiday starts with a Crime Prevention Plan!**