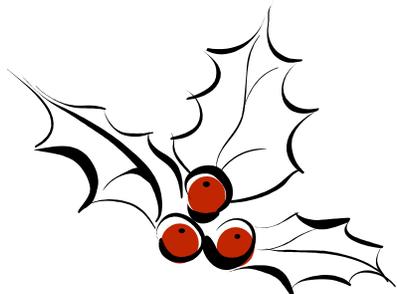


TAKE A HOLIDAY INVENTORY

The Holidays are a good time to update or create – your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Make sure things like TV's, VCR's, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice!

The information contained in this brochure is meant to contribute to the safety and security of people during the holiday season. We can never be too careful, prepared or aware. Share this information with family, friends and neighbors. Schedule family discussions to ensure they understand crime prevention and personal safety measures that will help your family have a safe holiday season.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department wants everyone to have a safe, happy and peaceful holidays



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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HOLIDAY SAFETY



TIPS FOR A SAFE

AND

HAPPY HOLIDAY



The holiday season is a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department wants everyone to have a secure and happy holiday season by taking a minute from the rush to read and apply the following Holiday crime prevention measures.

ATTENDING A PARTY

- Have something to eat before consuming alcoholic beverages.
- Eat high protein foods that will stay in your stomach longer and slow the absorption of alcohol into your system.
- Remember only time will eliminate the alcohol from your body.
- Never drink and drive.
- Have a designated driver.

DRIVING

- Be cautious when driving alone at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows Closed while in or out of your car.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
- Do not park next to vans, trucks with camper shells or cars with tinted windows.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the engine running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages on the seat of your car. This creates an unnecessary temptation.
- When approaching and leaving your car, be aware of your surroundings. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people standing by it. Ask mall or store security for an escort.



SHOPPING

- Stay alert to your surroundings. Minimize shopping after dark or when alone. Take a family member or friend with you.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or card when possible.
- If you must use an ATM, choose one located inside a mall, grocery store or other well-lit area.
- Shield the ATM keypad from anyone standing near you. Do not throw you ATM receipt away at the ATM location.
- Keep cash in your pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a safe place at home so you can report stolen cards by their number.
- Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse. They are prime targets of criminals in crowded places.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important you have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

STRANGERS AT YOUR DOOR

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved. Ask for identification and find out how the donated funds will be used. If you are not satisfied, do not donate. Donate to recognized charitable organizations.

AT HOME

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- When setting up a holiday display, make sure doorways and passageways are clear inside your home.
- Be sure holiday displays are secure and do not pose a trip hazard
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.