HOLIDAY SAFETY

Homes are decked with glittering lights. Gifts are jam-packed under holiday trees. Shopping Centers, malls and all little stores are bursting at the seams with unsuspecting shoppers searching for the perfect gift. People are rushing around, trying to get everything done. They are stressed out and careless and not watching their surroundings. It’s enough to fill a crook with holiday joy.

Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

IF YOU’RE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Have mail and newspaper deliveries stopped. If it piles up, it’s a sure sign you’re gone.

IF YOU’RE OUT FOR THE EVENING

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone is home.
- Lock doors and windows when you leave, even if it’s just for a few minutes.
- Don’t display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

IF YOU’RE SHOPPING

- Stay alert and aware of what’s going on around you. Shop with friends. There is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card when possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don’t overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside or front pants pocket.
- Don’t try to carry too many items at one time. It makes you look vulnerable.

YOUR CAR

- Park in a well-lit space.
- Look in your backseat before you enter your vehicle.
- Keep your vehicle locked and windows closed at all times and set your alarm.
- Store shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Have your keys ready and available when returning to your car.

SHOPPING WITH CHILDREN

- Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- Watch the children at all times.
- With older children, have designated meeting times and places.
- If you have small children with you, get in your vehicle, lock the doors then buckle up.

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 TVs, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment, and power tools are on the list. Remember to check twice!

Should you see suspicious activity on or near District facilities, please call the College Police at (619) 388-6405 or the San Diego Police at (619) 531-2000. Your ASSISTANCE is greatly appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

Charlie Hogquist
Chief of Police