

Crime Prevention News

December 2016

Holiday Safety Reminders



As we embrace the holiday spirit, it is important to remember that not everyone shares our merriment. There are Grinches lurking about, ready to swoop in and steal your joy. Don't let that happen to you. Follow these simple crime prevention tips to make it harder for an opportunistic thief to ruin your holiday.

Don't shop 'til you drop:

- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park your car in a well-lighted area; close the windows and lock the door.
- Don't leave packages and boxes visible through car windows. Lock them in the trunk or take them directly home.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with checks, debit, or credit cards whenever possible.
- Don't get overburdened with packages; always keep one hand free. Don't leave your packages unattended; thieves are always looking for unattended packages and shopping bags.
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside coat pocket.

When shopping online, use common sense to protect against fraud or ID theft:

- Familiarize yourself with the rules and policies of online stores and auction sites.
- Only shop with companies you know and make sure that the sites comply with industry security standards.
- Keep your personal information private and keep your passwords secure. Do not respond to requests for a password or credit card information unless you initiate the transaction.

Don't make your office a target for crooks looking for extra holiday cash:

- Do not leave gifts lying around an empty office. Secure them in a safe place or lock your office door if possible.
- Always keep your keys and wallet with you. Secure purses and other valuables in a locked drawer or cabinet.
- Don't be embarrassed to challenge an unfamiliar face in the office.
- Remember If you see something say something, call Public Safety immediately **212-854-5555 (MS Campus); 212-305-7979 (Medical Center)** to report suspicious activity or persons.
- Secure your office when stepping out, even for a minute.
- Don't announce that you are leaving town during the holidays. Don't offer information about co-workers' plans to callers.
- Keep petty cash in a secured area.

Students going home for the Holidays : Please make sure to secure your room doors and windows.

Watch this short video on the "Twelve Scams of Christmas": [Click Here- Holiday Scams](#)

Columbia University Public Safety Wishes You & Your Family a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!



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