



# HOME Safety

- ✓ Trim shrubbery and ensure your home is adequately lit after dark.
- ✓ Use timers on lights and radios or TVs to give the appearance that your home is occupied when you are away.
- ✓ Ensure that your exterior doors are equipped with deadbolt locks and remember to **keep them locked at all times**. Ground level windows should also have additional locks to enhance security.
- ✓ If you are leaving for the holidays, have a trusted neighbor or relative periodically check your home, pick up mail and newspaper deliveries, and park in your driveway. Leave an emergency contact number with the neighbor/relative and contact the Police Department @ 891-4200 to request an “extra protection’ while you are away.
- ✓ Keep Christmas trees fresh. If using a live tree, secure it in a sturdy stand, water it daily and keep it at least three feet away from heat sources and exits. Artificial trees should be fire-retardant.
- ✓ Decorate with only flame-retardant/non-combustible materials.
- ✓ Beware of holiday candles. Take special care in burning candles and DO NOT leave them unattended.
- ✓ Use care in hanging stockings and decorating near fireplaces.
- ✓ Inspect fireplaces prior to use. Use a fire screen and keep a fire extinguisher handy. Periodically, practice fire exit drills.
- ✓ After the gifts are opened, destroy and dispose of empty boxes especially those which contained electronic equipment. These items could be an open invitation for opportunistic thieves.

# Holiday Safety Tips

## Protecting Your Home, Family, and Property



**Tallahassee Police Department**

**Crime Prevention Unit**

**(850) 891-4251**

**[tpdcpu@talgov.com](mailto:tpdcpu@talgov.com)**



# Personal Safety

- \*\* Plan your day and shop with a friend or family member...there is safety in numbers.
- \*\* Pay attention to your surroundings and avoid distractions which could attract a criminal to you.
- \*\* Park in highly visible areas where there is a lot of activity. If you park during daylight hours, but don't expect to return until after dark, choose an area that will be well-lit.
- \*\* ALWAYS lock your vehicle doors, even if you'll only be gone for a few minutes.
- \*\* DO NOT leave valuables visible in your vehicle. Secure them in the trunk and disengage the interior trunk release.
- \*\* If you think you are being followed, quickly return to a store or the mall and seek assistance. Ask for an escort to your vehicle, if you notice suspicious persons lingering around.
- \*\* If possible, use debit or credit cards instead of carrying large sums of cash. Separate your cash into different pockets or compartments.
- \*\* If you must use an ATM, choose a well-lighted area and ask a friend to accompany you. Don't initiate a transaction in the presence of suspicious persons. Put your cash, card, and receipt away before leaving the ATM machine.
- \*\* **If you see something, say something !!** Report suspicious persons and packages to the police.

**Dial 911, if it is an emergency!!**

# Shopping with Children

- \* Teach children to stay with you at all times while shopping. Always supervise your children in a public facility and accompany young children to the restroom.
- \* Make a plan in case you become separated. Teach younger children to look for people who can help within a store or mall such as a uniformed security officer, salesperson with a nametag, or a mother with children. Have older kids meet you in a pre-designated spot.
- \* Turn shopping trips into opportunities for your children to practice 'safe shopping' skills.
- \* Leave clothing that displays your child's name at home.
- \* Never leave children in toy stores or public facilities.
- \* Have older children take a friend along. Insist that they check in with you on a regular basis while they are out. Pre-agree on a plan for pickup to include time, location, and what to do if plans change.
- \* Make other arrangements for child care if you feel you will be distracted during holiday shopping.

