



Community ^{In} The Know

Holiday Safety

The Holidays are always exciting with shopping, presents and family. However, crooks love the opportunities this time of year provides. Shopping presents unique dangers as people usually carry more money and gifts than at other times of the year. While there is no need to be afraid, you should keep in mind the following holiday safety reminders from the South Holland Police Department.

While Shopping

- ✓ Be aware of your setting and strangers
- ✓ Trust your instincts – If you are uncomfortable with a person or place get away
- ✓ Keep your cash in a front pocket and carry your purse close to your body
- ✓ Immediately notify your credit card company if your card is lost, stolen or misused
- ✓ Never leave the buildings until you believe everything is safe
- ✓ Dress casually and comfortable
- ✓ Shop with a friend
- ✓ Never overburden yourself with packages
- ✓ Only use ATM's during daylight hours or in well lit public places
- ✓ Never leave your purse in a shopping cart

Vehicles

- ✓ Keep emotions under control and give other drivers space
- ✓ Allocate extra time and prepare for winter conditions
- ✓ Use a designated driver if consuming alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Take frequent breaks during long trips
- ✓ Store Valuables (presents) in trunk or covered storage area
- ✓ Do not leave your purse or other items on top of the car
- ✓ Have keys ready before arriving at your car
- ✓ Do not approach your car if suspicious people are nearby
- ✓ Buckle Up!

At Home

- ✓ Lock Doors and Windows with Secondary locks
- ✓ Ensure doors and dark areas of the yard are lit
- ✓ Gifts should not be visible through the windows
- ✓ Do not open doors to strangers
- ✓ If traveling, ask a friend to watch your home
- ✓ Schedule a Extra Watch with the South Holland Police Department if you are going away
- ✓ Do not block the door with the Christmas tree
- ✓ Use a sturdy base on your Christmas tree
- ✓ Water your Christmas tree and never leave the lights on when you are away from home
- ✓ Do not burn wrapping paper in your fireplace
- ✓ Flatten boxes and conceal product pictures when putting garbage outside
- ✓ Be Alert! Criminal will pose as Charity workers and couriers

Children

- ✓ Keep children close at all times!
- ✓ Before shopping, select a meeting spot in case children get separated
- ✓ Always accompany children to the rest room
- ✓ Teach children their full name, address and telephone number for police officers or store security in case they get lost
- ✓ **NEVER** leave children alone in a car
- ✓ **Before** going to busy Shopping Centers with Children take a moment to Take a Picture of each of them with your Cell Phone. If they get separated from you, you will have a Current Picture for Police/Security Personnel.

Remember:

Cell phones can be a distraction!
Stay alert when out and about!
Don't Drink and Drive!

In case of an Emergency dial **9-1-1**
For all other incidents dial (708)331-3131

SOUTH HOLLAND POLICE