



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



The purpose of this bulletin is to make the citizens aware of a crime issue that develops during the holiday shopping season. Please read this bulletin, as it is to help inform and protect you.

IF YOU ARE SHOPPING:

- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park in well-light areas, lock all car doors, close windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; whenever possible, pay with check or credit card
- Do not overburden yourself with packages.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put your wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.
- When shopping with kids, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

IF YOU ARE GOING OUT FOR THE EVENING:

- Turn on lights and a radio or television so it looks like someone is home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave; even if it is for a few minutes.
- Do not display gifts or other valuables where they can be seen from the outside.

IF YOU ARE GOING OUT OF TOWN

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask your neighbor or a family member or friend to shovel your snow and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Give a spare key to a neighbor or family member or friend, and ask them to check your home from time to time.
- Stop your mail and newspaper delivery. If it is piling up while you are gone, it is a sure sign you are gone.
- Call your local District station, and ask for extra patrol while you are gone. Give them the following information:
 - Your name, address, and cell phone number or phone number of where you will be
 - When you are leaving and when you are coming back
 - What lights will be on and/or on a timer
 - Who has a spare key and their contact information

From all the personnel at District Four, have a safe and happy holiday season.

**JEROME O'LEARY
CAPTAIN OF POLICE
DISTRICT FOUR – MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT**