

The Holiday Season is a very special time of year- a time when busy people forget to be careful about their personal safety and property. As a result, people are especially vulnerable to thefts, frauds (con games) and other crimes.

Everyone could use extra money around the holidays. If you were a criminal who wanted some quick cash how would you get it? Steal a purse or wallet from a holiday shopper? Solicit donations for a fake charity? Use someone else's credit card number or charge account? These are the more frequent holiday fund-raisers for criminals.

DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THE THIEVES!

Take a moment to read this brochure of tips in order to insure your shopping, commuting, home and personal security this and every season.

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(For the Hearing Impaired)

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Chicago Police Department is committed to your safety and security. To that end, I urge everyone to incorporate these valuable recommendations as you enjoy your holiday activities.

We encourage the use of these crime prevention methods and safety techniques in a spirit of cooperation between the Chicago Police Department and the public we serve.

Superintendent of Police



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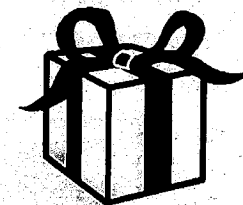
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11-00

Season's Greetings



*We Wish You A Happy
and Safe, Crime-Free
Holiday Season !*



***TOGETHER WE CAN
WORK TO KEEP OUR HOLIDAY
SEASON SAFE BY FOLLOWING
THESE SAFETY TIPS.***



PLEASE REMAIN ALERT



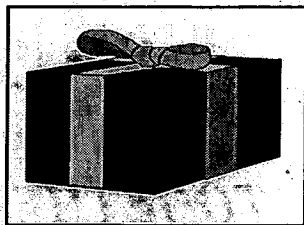
at all times, especially in crowded areas. Thieves often work in pairs. One may bump into you while another picks your pocket.

If you must take a purse, carry it close to the body with the clasp nearest to you. Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or upon a counter while you shop.

Wallets or checkbooks should be carried in an inside pocket, while cash should be carried in a front pocket.

Take only cash and the credit cards that you need. Try to avoid taking a large purse. Use a small change purse or wallet that can be carried in an inside pocket.

DO NOT display large sums of cash and be discreet about the amount of money you are carrying. Never allow your-self to be distracted when opening your purse to make a purchase.



Plan your stops in advance and inform others of your destinations. If you can, shop with friends or relatives- there is always safety in numbers.

While shopping, or at any time you leave home, give your house an occupied appearance. This can be accomplished by leaving lights on inside your home on different floors or rooms. A timer may be utilized effectively. Also, inform a trusted neighbor that you will be gone for a time and instruct them to Keep an eye out. By trading opportunities with the neighbor, you begin to create a neighborhood watch which has proven to deter criminal behavior.



Don't use short-cuts through alleys or walkways between buildings when you go to or come from your shopping trip. Take well lit and traveled areas.

If you drive, always transfer child safety seats that are not being used, clothes, cameras, and other valuables to the trunk of your auto BEFORE you reach your destination. Never leave valuables in plain view in your auto.

Park your auto as close to your destination as possible, preferably in a well-lit and busy area. Close all windows and lock all doors on your vehicle in order to make sure that you have the car keys in your possession.

When using public washrooms, use extreme caution. Try to avoid putting your purse on hooks or door handles. Keep your purse with you at all times.

Don't leave shopping carts unattended while you get your car. Be alert for suspicious persons loitering in the area who may snatch your purse or packages.

Keys should never be carried in a purse. In the event of a purse snatching, the thief will have your keys and the address to your home. Keep keys in your pocket.

Try to avoid carrying numerous or large packages. Keep a hand free for emergencies.

When returning to your auto (or home), have your keys in your hand ready to open the door. The few moments that you plan for may reduce your opportunities in be-coming a victim of a crime. Before, entering your vehicle you should carefully check the front and rear seats and floors for anyone that may be hiding there. Lock your doors immediately after entering the car. Also, you should drive with your doors locked.

If you are going to continue to shop, place your packages in the trunk of your car and move the vehicle to another parking location. If potential thieves are watching you, they will think that you are leaving the area.

BY USING THESE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR VALUABLES FROM HOLIDAY CRIME.

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.