

# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

## YOUR GUIDE TO A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

### SHOPPING:

- If at all possible shop during the day.
- Always shop with a friend or family member, never alone.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended, even for just a moment.
- Never leave your children alone in a store or automobile.
- Make sure your children know to find a police officer or security guard in the event they become lost and know their address and telephone number.
- Carry a cell phone with you and do not hesitate to call police if you witness suspicious behavior or feel threatened.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Be aware of strangers who approach you. During this time of year “con artists” try to distract shoppers, intending to take their money or belongings.
- Park as close to the store or mall as possible in a well lit area & lock your vehicle!
- Avoid leaving any visible packages, presents, or valuables inside of your vehicle. Secure these items in the trunk.
- Have your keys ready before walking to your vehicle and avoid fumbling with packages. Often criminals view this as an opportune time to victimize you.



### HOME SAFETY:

- If you are going out of town let a trusted neighbor and/or the police know and ask them to watch your home.
- Be cautious of who you make aware of your vacation plans.
- Make your home appear to be “lived in” by having a neighbor or friend collect your newspapers and mail.
- Use an automatic timer to control interior and exterior lights if you go out of town.
- Avoid placing your tree or presents in a front window. Not only do they make tempting targets, they limit your ability to see outside.
- Avoid placing decorations over windows or peep holes thereby limiting your ability to see outside.
- Do not advertise what you received for Christmas. Tear up your boxes before you put them out as trash.

### HOLIDAY and NEW YEAR'S PARTIES:

- DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!
- Appoint a designated driver before you leave for the evening.
- If a guest at your party has had too much to drink do not let them drive.
- Be cautious of taking drinks from strangers
- If you are holding a party at your office or home hide and secure all valuables.
- Remember, fireworks are illegal in the City Of New Orleans and in many cases their improper and unsupervised use has resulted in serious injury and loss of property by fire.
- If you are in an area where fireworks are legal, never allow children to enjoy them unsupervised.
- Never discharge a firearm into the air! In years past many people have been seriously injured or killed by falling bullets.



**New Orleans Police:**

**Building a safer city for our residents & visitors through collaboration & communication.**