

Crime Prevention Tips

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, nor pick pockets a chance to do their dirty work. Criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else, chiefly because it's a perfect opportunity to commit a crime. Keep these tips in mind for a safe and happy holiday season.

If you would like further information on this topic or are interested in any other crime prevention programs, please contact Josephine County Crime Prevention Office at 541-474-5136.

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HOLIDAY SAFETY

If You're Traveling...

- Set automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask your neighbor to watch your home, shovel the walks, pick up news papers, collect mail, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Be sure to hide any gifts that may be left in the house while you're gone.

If You're Out for the Evening...

- Turn on lights and a radio or the TV so that it appears that someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you're out, even if you'll be gone for just a few minutes.
- Do not place packages or gifts near windows or in other high-visibility sites.

If You're Shopping...

- Don't let your guard down just because you are rushing.
- Stay alert and be aware of everything around you at all times.
- Park in well-lighted spaces and as close to the store as possible, lock your car doors, and hide packages in the trunk or under the seats.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card if possible.
- Make sure that you do not carry all your packages at the same time.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pockets.
- If you take your children shopping, teach them to go to a police officer or a store security guard if they get separated or get lost.

If a Stranger Comes to the Door...

- Stay alert to suspicious looking couriers delivering packages to you or your neighbors.
- Many con artists take advantage of holiday generosity by going door-to-door. Ask for identification and get specifics to how and where the donations will be spent.
- If you feel uncomfortable, just say "no thank you" and shut the door.

If You're at Home...

- Turn on outside lights to deter burglars.
- Report any suspicious behavior to the police or your neighborhood watch.
- Make sure your homeowners (or renters) insurance is up to date and everything is inventoried properly.