

## Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

- When shopping, always keep your doors locked and ALL valuables hidden from view preferably locked away in your trunk.
- NEVER leave your purse in your vehicle.
- Secure your vehicle with an additional steering wheel lock (i.e. "The Club").
- If you use a wireless device to open and lock your car doors, make sure you check the vehicle before you walk away.
- Make sure your trunk lid is secured / shut. Often people hit the wrong button when trying to lock their car doors and the driver actually hits the trunk release button instead.
- Another problem relating to trunks is that some people leave their keys in the trunk when putting their newly purchased gifts in the trunk for safe keeping. This could result in your gifts being taken as well as your vehicle. Check behind yourself when putting things in your trunk to make sure you have your keys.
- As you walk to and from your car make sure you keep the keys in your hands. Additionally, if you have the wireless remote for your vehicle door locks in your hand, keep your finger on the panic button in case a stranger or someone approaches you intends to rob or assault you.
- Prior to entering your vehicle make sure, you look in the back seat area and floorboards to make sure no one is hiding inside your vehicle.
- Park in a well-lighted area for added security.
- Try to shop in pairs (with a friend or family member) for added security.
- Lock your car doors upon re-entry into your vehicle.
- Never roll down your vehicle windows if someone approaches your vehicle even if the person says they are lost or wants to ask you a question.
- If you have a cellular phone available assign a speed dial for 911 and have your finger on that button for quick dialing. Even if you cannot talk after dialing 911, remember the operator can still hear what is going on. Remember to talk out loud giving the operator information as to where you are located and to give the operator an idea what is going on.

- Make sure you keep plenty of gas in your vehicle.
- When needing cash from a teller machine, make sure you go to the teller machine during daylight hours. If possible, go to teller machines where you do not have to exit your vehicle to get the money. Try to get the money from a teller machine when you have another person with you to help watch your surrounding and for added protection. Try to pull your vehicle close as possible to the teller machine to prevent a criminal from easily getting to you. Lock all your car doors prior to getting to the teller machine.
- When shopping, do not carry a lot of gifts or items with you at one time. Make trips to your car frequently and put the items in your trunk.
- If possible, use credit or debit cards to purchase your gifts so you do not have to carry a lot of cash. Only carry and use one credit card for your purchases. Do not carry cash and credit cards in the same location. Ladies, remember to not carry all your credit cards with you. If you use checks for your purchases, make sure you safeguard the checkbook especially if you have your phone number and address printed on the checks. Also, do not carry your credit card, and driver license inside of your checkbook.
- Mail all your holiday cards or letters at the post office or at a blue postal mailbox that is usually located throughout the town. Many people now mail cards or letters with checks or money/gift cards.