

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



SHOPPING

- Stay alert to your surroundings – trust your instincts; if something doesn't feel right, it's probably not – call 9-1-1
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Do not leave purse/wallet in shopping carts
- Get keys out of pocket/purse before leaving the store
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to open car doors, use cell phones etc.
- Do not leave packages in vehicle. If changing locations, put them in trunk BEFORE you leave one destination and get to the other
- Park in well lit areas
- Try to use an ATM that is located inside a mall, grocery store or well lit location. DO NOT leave car unlocked or purses, wallets in car (even if locked) while you are at a walk up ATM, Red Box or coffee window
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost or stolen
- Protect PIN numbers when using debit cards

AT HOME

- Lock doors and windows when you leave the house, even if it's for a few minutes
- When leaving home for an extended period of time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up mail & newspapers, or you can put a hold on mail and newspaper delivery
- If expecting a package from UPS, USPS or Fed Ex, and are not going to be home, track your packages on-line, ask a neighbor to pick it up for you, request a signature for proof of delivery to ensure that someone is home, research delivery options
- Indoor and outdoor lights can be on an automatic timer
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows or doors of your home
- Do not leave boxes from large or small purchases visible on or before garbage day; doing this allows others to see what new things you have in your home
- If someone knocks on your door and you don't recognize them, you don't have to answer the door, but let them know you are home – teach children to do the same. If they seem suspicious call 9-1-1 immediately
- Always donate to a recognized charitable foundation – if someone calls or is at your door, ask for their identification and question how the funds will be used. If it seems suspicious, call 9-1-1 immediately



It is important to call 9-1-1 immediately when you have been a victim of a crime, you see a crime in progress or even if something is suspicious and doesn't seem quite right.

For more information, contact Stacy Judd at **253-856-5883** or sjudd@KentWA.gov

