

Safety

- ☑ Trim shrubbery and ensure your home is adequately lit after dark.
- ☑ Use timers on lights and radios or TVs to give the appearance that your home is occupied when you are away.
- ☑ Ensure that your exterior doors are equipped with deadbolt locks and remember to **keep them locked at all times**. Ground level windows should also have additional locks to enhance security.
- ☑ If you are leaving for the holidays, have a trusted neighbor or relative periodically check your home, pick up mail and newspaper deliveries, and park in your driveway. Leave an emergency contact number with the neighbor/relative and contact the Police Department @ 891-4200 to request an “extra protection” while you are away.
- ☑ Keep Christmas trees fresh. If using a live tree, secure it in a sturdy stand, water it daily and keep it at least three feet away from heat sources and exits. Artificial trees should be fire-retardant.
- ☑ Decorate with only flame-retardant/non-combustible materials.
- ☑ Beware of holiday candles. Take special care in burning candles and DO NOT leave them unattended.
- ☑ Use care in hanging stockings and decorating near fireplaces.
- ☑ Inspect fireplaces prior to use. Use a fire screen and keep a fire extinguisher handy. Periodically, practice fire exit drills.
- ☑ After the gifts are opened, destroy and dispose of empty boxes especially those which contained electronic equipment. These items could be an open invitation for opportunistic thieves.



Holiday Safety Tips

Protecting Your Home, Family, and Property



Tallahassee Police Department

Crime Prevention Unit

(850) 891-4251

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Personal Safety

- ** Plan your day and shop with a friend or family member...there is safety in numbers.
- ** Pay attention to your surroundings and avoid distractions which could attract a criminal to you.
- ** Park in highly visible areas where there is a lot of activity. If you park during daylight hours, but don't expect to return until after dark, choose an area that will be well-lit.
- ** ALWAYS lock your vehicle doors, even if you'll only be gone for a few minutes.
- ** DO NOT leave valuables visible in your vehicle. Secure them in the trunk and disengage the interior trunk release.
- ** If you think you are being followed, quickly return to a store or the mall and seek assistance. Ask for an escort to your vehicle, if you notice suspicious persons lingering around.
- ** If possible, use debit or credit cards instead of carrying large sums of cash. Separate your cash into different pockets or compartments.
- ** If you must use an ATM, choose a well-lighted area and ask a friend to accompany you. Don't initiate a transaction in the presence of suspicious persons. Put your cash, card, and receipt away before leaving the ATM machine.
- ** If you see something, say something !! Report suspicious persons and packages to the police.

Dial 911, if it is an emergency!!

Shopping with Children

- * Teach children to stay with you at all times while shopping. Always supervise your children in a public facility and accompany young children to the restroom.
- * Make a plan in case you become separated. Teach younger children to look for people who can help within a store or mall such as a uniformed security officer, salesperson with a nametag, or a mother with children. Have older kids meet you in a pre-designated spot.
- * Turn shopping trips into opportunities for your children to practice 'safe shopping' skills.
- * Leave clothing that displays your child's name at home.
- * Never leave children in toy stores or public facilities.
- * Have older children take a friend along. Insist that they check in with you on a regular basis while they are out. Pre-agree on a plan for pickup to include time, location, and what to do if plans change.
- * Make other arrangements for child care if you feel you will be distracted during holiday shopping.

