

Hello Neighbors,

With the holidays coming up, I wanted to remind everyone of a few SAFETY TIPS to help keep the holidays festive and avoid any incidences. Here are some common safety tips :

**IF YOU ARE AT HOME:**

- \* Keep your GARAGE DOOR CLOSED at all times unless you are going in or out.
- \* Keep your EXTERIOR LIGHTS ON at night time.
- \* When not in use, LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS and close all windows.
- \* REMOVE ALL VALUABLES from inside your car or lock them in your trunk.

**IF YOU ARE SHOPPING:**

- \* Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- \* Park in well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows , and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- \* Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket. Don't overburden yourself with a lot of packages.

**IF YOU ARE OUT FOR THE EVENING:**

- \* Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone is home.
- \* Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- \* During the holidays, don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

**IF YOU ARE TRAVELING:**

- \* Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- \* Ask a neighbor to watch you home, shovel snow and park in the driveway from time to time.
- \* Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sign you're gone.

**IF A STRANGER COMES TO YOUR DOOR . BEWARE!**

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Be cautious. In addition, it's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and

like instead.

**DISPOSING OF BOXES AFTER THE HOLDIAYS:**

Cardboard packaging from holiday gifts or significant purchases (such as electronics, appliances, or computers) can be invitations for break-ins. The packaging will advertise what you have just bought to those people walking or driving down your street looking for information. Reduce this risk by removing information about the make, model, and serial number of your item from the box. Flatten and bundle the boxes for recycling. This will make it more difficult for anyone to know what you have inside the house.

Happy holidays and stay safe,

Officer Diane Tillery