



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Police Department

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DATE: 11/25/2009

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Holiday Safety and Security Reminders

CASE NO.:

INCIDENT DATE :11/25/2009

INCIDENT TIME:

INCIDENT LOCATION:

SUBJECT: Police give Holiday Safety and Security Reminders

BY: Officer Brad Wick, Information Coordinator

With the start of the Holiday season and all the activities it brings, the Duluth Police Department would like to remind everyone of some simple Holiday Safety tips. These activities include family gatherings, movies, concerts, shopping, winter activities and sporting events; any activity that requires you to leave your home or vehicle for a period of time.

Home Reminders

- Be cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone for a short time.
- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- When going on trips or out for evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Use exterior lighting around your home.
- Immediately after the holidays, record the serial numbers of your items and mark them with your Operation ID number(if applicable)
- Don't advertise what you got for Christmas by putting the boxes out on trash day. Break the boxes down.
- If leaving for an extended time, ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home, shovel your walks, collect your mail, and park in your driveway from time to time to give the home the appearance that someone is there.
- Be cautious of couriers and door to door sales. Ask for identification.
- **Report suspicious people, vehicles, or activity to 911.**

Other Reminders

- Lock packages, purses, and valuables in the trunk of your vehicle if leaving them in it.
- Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Park in well-lighted areas, as close to store entrances if possible. Be aware of the surroundings and people.
- Pay by card or check and carry only the cards you will need. Don't carry large sums of cash.
- Carry your purse next to your body with the purse flap against you. Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Teach children to go to police, a store clerk, or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in stores or shopping malls.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- **Report suspicious people, vehicles, or activity to 911.**

If you are a victim of a crime, call 911 to report it to police.