

Safety During the Holidays

by Capt. Chris Bertram, Chief of Police Services

With the holiday season upon us, the Holladay Precinct of the Unified Police Department would like to remind residents of a few simple steps that may keep the season from turning sour. From shopping, to gift delivery, to home safety, there are several important safety practices police officers recommend:



- Lock valuables and packages in the trunk of your car; SUV owners should do their best to keep items left inside the vehicle, out of sight.
- At night, park under street lights.
- Look around. Be aware of your surroundings when you are out.
- Keep track of purses and wallets. Thieves often prey on distracted shoppers in crowded stores.
- Try to remove mail from the box soon after it is delivered so thieves don't have an opportunity to steal the items inside.
- Consider purchasing a locking mailbox. These devices protect packages and make it more difficult for thieves to steal mail that may contain personally identifiable information and account numbers.
- Do not place outgoing mail in your mailbox. Criminals may steal it. Consider dropping your mail at the local post office.
- Keep your garage door closed, even in the middle of the day. This will decrease the chances of a thief stealing items from inside your garage.
- Don't post holiday travel plans on social media accounts as this may alert more than just your friends to your extended absence.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your house while you are away and arrange for someone to check your residence to ensure there are no problems.
- Install motion and dawn-to-dusk lighting around your home.
- Leave some exterior and interior lights on, as well as a radio. Good lighting and noise tend to deter burglars.

Finally, it is important to report any suspicious activities to the Unified Police Department at 801-743-7000, or a local law enforcement

agency. On behalf of the Unified Police Department of Greater Salt Lake and the Holladay City Precinct, have a safe and happy holiday season.