

Crime Prevention News

December 2011

Holiday Safety Reminders



As we embrace the holiday spirit, it is important to remember that not everyone shares our merriment. There are grinchers lurking about, ready to swoop in and steal your joy. Don't let that happen to you. Follow these simple crime prevention tips to make it harder for an opportunistic thief to ruin your holiday.

Don't shop 'til you drop:

- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.
- Park your car in a well-lighted area, close the windows and lock the door.
- Don't leave packages and boxes visible through car windows. Lock them in the trunk or take them directly home.
- Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay with checks, debit or credit cards, whenever possible.
- Don't get overburdened with packages; always keep one hand free.
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling loosely. Put your wallet in your front pants pocket or in an inside coat pocket.

When shopping online, use common sense to protect against fraud or ID theft:

- Familiarize yourself with the rules and policies of online stores and auction sites.
- Only shop with companies you know, and make sure that the sites comply with industry security standards.
- Keep your personal information private, and keep your passwords secure. Do not respond to requests for a password or credit card information unless you initiate the transaction.

Don't make your office a target for crooks looking for extra holiday cash:

- Lock gifts purchased during lunch in a safe place.
- Always keep your keys and wallet with you. Secure purses, wallets, or other valuables in a locked drawer or cabinet.
- Don't be embarrassed to challenge unfamiliar faces in the office.
- Call Public Safety right-away **212-854-5555 (MS Campus) 212-305-7979 (Medical Center)** to report suspicious activity or persons.
- Secure your office when stepping out, even for a minute.
- Don't announce that you are leaving town during the holidays. Don't offer information about co-workers' plans to callers.
- Keep petty cash in a secured area.

Columbia University Public Safety Wishes You & Your Family a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!



Crime Prevention Stocking Stuffers Available At Public Safety

Looking for a nice gift for that special someone...or for yourself? Public Safety has some great crime prevention stocking suffers available at discounted prices: **Kensington Laptop Locks \$25, Stop-Theft Tags \$13, Kryptonite U-Locks & Fahgettaboudit NY Chain \$10, \$20, \$45,\$70, PINHEAD Bike component locks \$30.** Where can your purchase them? Morningside Campus- Low Library, Room 111 (9a-5p Mon-Fri) Medical Center Campus - 650 West 168 Street, Room 109 (24 Hours). **For more information, 212-854-8513**