



## ISLE OF PALMS POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



---

### HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

National crime statistics have consistently shown a trend in the increase in property crimes during the holiday season. Here are some tips for a safe and happy holiday season, whether shopping, away from your residence for the evening or traveling for an extended period of time.

- ▶ Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- ▶ Park in well-lit areas.
- ▶ Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car. Have your car keys in hand prior to exiting an establishment.
- ▶ Shop online with companies you know and trust, and clear your computer's cache before logging off-line.
- ▶ Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as onetime or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites. This will eliminate carrying large amounts of cash and numerous credit cards.
- ▶ Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket. Report lost or stolen credit cards, immediately.
- ▶ Check the back seat and around your vehicle before getting inside. Once inside, lock your doors. Raise windows, during travel, when stopped in traffic, at traffic lights/signs, pedestrian crossings, etc.).
- ▶ Be sure to keep the windows and doors to your home locked at all times.
- ▶ Do not display gifts were they may be visible from the outside.
- ▶ Consider putting lights and a television on an automatic timer if you're going to be away for the Holidays.
- ▶ Park a secondary vehicle in your driveway, and request a neighbor or friend collect your mail and newspapers while you are away.
- ▶ Store gift boxes, that are to be discarded, in your garage until the morning of your regular trash pick-up. Criminals look for discarded boxes to determine the types of gifts a household received.
- ▶ With heavy Holiday traffic, be a defensive driver. Refrain from operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and displaying road rage.
- ▶ Report suspicious activity and persons to the police, immediately.

**WE WISH YOU AND YOURS A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**