Safety During The Holidays
At Home
At Home

- Lock your doors and windows, even if you’re only leaving for a few minutes.
- When leaving for an extended period of time, have a neighbor or a family member pick up your mail and newspapers.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so that the house looks and sounds occupied.
At Home

• Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors.
• When setting up Christmas or other holiday displays, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.
• Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons, or pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
Driving
Driving

• Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in and out of the car.
• Remember to set your alarm.
• If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
• Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
• Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
Driving

• Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside. **NOT EVEN FOR A SECOND!**
• Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car.
  • This creates a temptation for thieves.
  • If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
• Locate your keys prior to going to your car.
ATM

- If you use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a mall or well-lit location.
  - Be aware of bushes and blind spots.
  - Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your pin number by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.
Shopping
Shopping

• Shop during daylight hours whenever possible.
  • If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
• Dress casually and comfortably.
• Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
• Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
• Keep cash in your front pocket.
Shopping

- Always carry your drivers license or ID card along with necessary cash, checks, and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
Strangers At Your Door
Strangers At Your Door

• Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
• It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved.
• Donate to a recognized charitable organization.
Online Shopping
Online Shopping

- Online Shopping Dangers
  - Identity Theft
  - Credit Card Fraud
  - Theft
  - Counterfeit Goods
- These crimes are still more prevalent in the “real” world, but trends are shifting.
- Think before you click.
Online Shopping Tips

• **Choose Credit Over Debit**
  - Credit cards have much better fraud protection.
  - Disposable credit cards are even better.

• **Verify Website Security**
  - Some online web sites don’t offer secure shopping.
  - Limit yourself to secure sites.
    - Look for Https:// instead of Http://
    - Secure sites will also have a small lock in the lower right corner of the screen.
Online Shopping Tips

• Don’t Shop Publicly
  • Don’t use a shared or public computer to shop online.
  • Don’t use open or shared networks when shopping online.

• Don’t Store Information Elsewhere
  • One click shopping is faster, but the risk is greater.
  • Data breaches are becoming more and more common.

• Shop At Trusted Websites
  • If it appears to be too good to be true, it usually is!
S.C.A.M.

• **(S)tingy**: Be stingy about giving out your personal information to others unless you have a reason to trust them, regardless of where you are.

• **(C)heck**: Check your financial information regularly, and look for what should be there and what shouldn’t.

• **(A)sk**: Ask periodically for a copy of your credit report.

• **(M)aaintain**: Maintain careful records of your banking and financial accounts.