Safety Spotlight: Holiday Safety

- Holiday Safety Hazards at home
  - When leaving, lock windows and doors, even if you will only be gone for a few minutes.
  - When leaving for an extended period of time, have someone pick up your mail or have it temporarily stopped.
  - Use an automatic timer for indoor and outdoor lights.
  - Leave on a radio or television so that it sounds as if the premises is occupied.
  - Ensure displays of gifts or valuables are not visible through windows.
  - Ensure doors and walkways are clear when putting up holiday displays.
  - Ensure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base.

- Holiday Safety Hazards while driving:
  - Keep all doors locked and windows closed while both in and out of the automobile.
  - If the vehicle has an alarm, be sure to set it.
  - Do not park next to vans, trucks, or camper shells with no windows.
  - Park as close to your destination as possible, and pay attention to where you parked.
  - Never leave children in an unoccupied car and never leave the motor running in an unoccupied car.
  - Ensure that you have keys handy before you get to the vehicle.

- Holiday Safety for ATMs:
  - Choose an ATM that is located inside or outside in a well-lit area.
  - Protect your pin number by shielding the ATM keypad with your body.
  - Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

- Holiday Safety while shopping:
  - Shop during daylight hours if possible.
  - Dress casually and comfortably.
  - Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
  - If possible, do not carry cash or a wallet.
  - Keep cash in your front pocket.
  - Carry only identification, cash, or credit cards that you plan to use.
  - Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
  - When possible, pay for purchases with a check or credit card.
• **Strangers at the Door:**
  - Stay alert - criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering packages.
  - Criminals commonly solicit donations for non-existent charities. Donate only to a recognized charity.

• **Holiday Hazards when shopping online:**
  - Be aware of identity theft, credit card fraud, and counterfeit goods.
  - "THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK."
  - Choose a credit card over a debit card; disposable cards are even better.
  - Verify website security and limit your purchases to secure sites.
  - Do not shop publicly (no public computers or shared/open networks).
  - Do not store information elsewhere.
  - Shop at trusted sites.

• **Use SCAM:**
  - S(tingy): Be stingy about giving your personal information to others, unless there is a reason to trust them.
  - C(heck): Check the transactions of your financial institution regularly.
  - A(sk): Ask for a copy of your credit report periodically.
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