



# Holiday Season Crime Prevention & Safety Tips

**From Your Glendale Police Department's  
Community Action Team**

**6255 W Union Hills Dr., Glendale, AZ 85308**

**(623) 930-3380**

## **While Out & About This Holiday Season:**

- *Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device and always park in a well-lighted areas at night.*
- *Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shell that can block the view of your vehicle.*
- *Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.*
- *Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.*
- *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. This is the time of the year when thieves do their own form of "window shopping."*
- *Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car and have them in hand so you can enter car quickly and use as weapon if needed. You can also use alarm on your key fob if you are in danger.*
- *When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Do NOT be distracted by being on your phone.*
- *Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.*
- *Dress comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry that a thief might want to take from you.*
- *Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings. DO NOT be distracted on your cell phone. KEEP your phone in a secure pocket where it can't be seen by potential robber.*
- *Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. Keep ID and CC's in a pocket.*
- *Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit. . Do not put them down, on top of the car or leave in shopping basket in order to open the door.*
- *Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If you must have cash keep it in your front pocket.*
- *Pay for purchases with a credit card when possible. Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place with the phone number to report if lost or stolen. Report immediately if your credit card is lost or stolen.*
- *Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.*
- *Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.*
- *Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location if you feel uneasy about walking out alone.*
- *Don't resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Don't chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. Instead get a good description and call 911.*

## **While using Automated Teller Machine (ATM):**

- *If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or in a very well-lit location where you can drive-up and not have to exit your vehicle. Have card ready before getting up to the machine. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.*
- *Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you. Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.*

### **Out and About with Children:**

- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

### **Keeping your Home Safe:**

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should NOT be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, 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 family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- If you use lights on your Christmas tree ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire. Turn off all holiday lights when you leave your home or go to bed.
- Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace and never leave lit candles unattended.
- Don't advertise new valuable items by placing empty boxes out in plain view for trash pickup. (i.e. televisions, gaming systems.)
- Do not go inside your home if you find the door open...call the police and wait for them.

### **Strangers at Your Door:**

- Be aware that criminals can pose as couriers delivering gifts. They could be checking to see if your home.
- 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.
- Ask for their identification, and find out how the donated funds will be used. If you are not satisfied, do not donate. Donate only to a recognized charitable organization.
- Know your neighbors. Watching out for one another is one of the best defenses against crime.

### **Operation Identification:**

- Why not set aside some time right after the holidays to get your bike and gifts engraved with your ID number or driver's license number. Never use your social security number.
- For items that cannot be marked with an engraver, photograph or videotape the items.
- The goal of Operation Identification is to deter property-related crime and to assist the Police Department in their efforts to find and return stolen or lost property to its rightful owner.
- Feel free to contact the Glendale Police Department's Community Action Team for more information about the Operation Identification Program.

Happy  
Holidays!



**EMERGENCY: Dial 911**

**Non-Emergency: (623) 930-3000**