

CHILDREN

- ◆ If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- ◆ 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.

AT HOME

- ◆ 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 automatic timers.
- ◆ 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.

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.
- ◆ 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 recognized charitable organizations.

HOSTING A PARTY

- ◆ Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- ◆ Find alternative transportation for intoxicated guests.
- ◆ Arrange for an official designated driver for your party who will not drink at all.

ATTENDING A PARTY

- ◆ Have something to eat before consuming alcoholic beverages.
- ◆ Eat high protein foods that will stay in your stomach longer and slow the absorption of alcohol into your system.
- ◆ Remember: only time will eliminate the alcohol from your body. Know your safe limit.
- ◆ Never drink and drive.

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Holiday Safety Tips



We can never be too careful,
too prepared or too aware.
Please share these
Holiday Safety Tips with
family, friends and neighbors.

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**THE MONTEREY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WISHES YOU
A HAPPY AND SAFE
HOLIDAY SEASON.**



AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINES (ATM)

- ◆ If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a mall, or well-lighted location. 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.

DRIVING

- ◆ Avoid driving alone or at night.
- ◆ Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- ◆ If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- ◆ Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- ◆ When approaching and leaving your vehicle be aware of your surroundings.
- ◆ Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- ◆ Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION

- ◆ Mark gifts with your California Driver License or Identification Card number.
- ◆ Do not use your Social Security Number.
- ◆ For items that cannot be marked with an engraver, photograph or videotape the items.

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.
- ◆ Avoid carrying a purse or wallet, if possible.
- ◆ Always carry your California Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- ◆ Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- ◆ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- ◆ Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- ◆ Keep cash in your front pocket.
- ◆ Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- ◆ Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- ◆ 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, and buses.
- ◆ 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.