

OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



The holiday season is a wonderfully magical time of year. With all the colorful holiday lights, joyful music, sounds of laughter and feelings of good will, it's easy to forget that we may become a victim of a crime. Falling victim to crime can happen to anyone at anytime. While there are no guarantees, that you won't be a victim of crime, there are things you can do to avoid being an easy target. The following suggestions are offered to assist you or your family:

AT HOME

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave home, even for a few minutes. Make sure all doors close easily and lock securely.
- When leaving home for an extended time, ask a family member or trusted neighbor to watch your house, pick up your newspaper and mail, and accept any deliveries.
- Indoor and outdoor lights and a radio should be left operated by an automatic timer so your home looks and sounds occupied when you are away.
- Home displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows or doors.

DRIVING

- Do not leave packages or any other items in plain view on the seat of your car.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Assess the surroundings when arriving at any location, and be aware of the surroundings when leaving or approaching your car.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- As much as possible and practical, avoid driving alone at night.
- Make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked while in or out of your car.
- If you must stop while driving at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Make sure your car is in good operating condition and the gas tank is full.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells or cars with tinted windows that prevent you from seeing inside.
- At night, when walking between cars in parking lots, be cautious when passing a vehicle with someone sitting inside or with open sliding side doors of a van.

