

HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION

Atlantic County Sheriff's Office

www.acsheriff.org

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HOLIDAY SAFETY IN THE HOME

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes;
- When leaving the home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspaper 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 display of holiday gifts should not be visible through windows or doors;
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doorways 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 fire.
- Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green; and
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.



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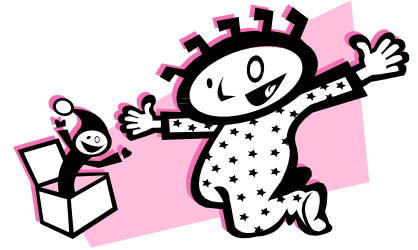
HOLIDAY SAFETY ATTENDING A PARTY

- 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; and
- Never drink and drive; plan ahead to have a Designated Driver.

Be a HERO

CHILDREN

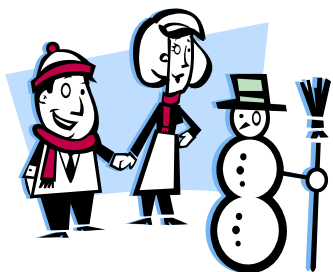
- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter; and they should never be left alone in the car;
- Teach each child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you while shopping;
- Teach children their full name, address, and telephone number to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



The best gift you can give your family and friends for the holidays is, YOU! Please be safe!

SAFE DRIVING

- Be cautious when driving alone at night;
- Keep all doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car;
- If you must shop at night, park in a well lit area;
- Do not park next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows; and
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside. A car can be stolen in a few seconds;
- Do not leave packages on the seat of your car. This creates unnecessary temptation for thieves.



SHOPPING

- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings. Minimize shopping after dark or when alone. Take a friend or family member with you;
- Avoid carrying around large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with check or credit/debit card;
- If you must use the ATM, use a location inside a mall, grocery store or well lit locations. Withdraw only what you need;
- Shield the ATM from anyone who is standing near you. Do not throw away the receipt at the ATM location;
- Keep cash in your front pocket;
- Keep a record of all credit card numbers in a safe place so you can report stolen or lost cards by their numbers.

THINK SAFETY WHILE CHOOSING HOW YOU DRESS TO SHOP

- Dress casually and comfortably;
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry; and
- Carry your wallet in your front pocket and purse securely around your shoulder. Always carry your New Jersey Drivers License or Identification card with necessary cash, debit, checks and/or credit card you expect to you.



The Atlantic County Sheriff's Office wants everyone to have a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season!



STRANGERS AT YOUR DOOR

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts; and
 - It is not uncommon to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charity.
- Ask for identification and how the donated funds will be used. If you are not satisfied, do not donate. Donate to a recognized charitable organization.