



Holiday Crime Prevention Tip of the Day: At Home (#3 in a Series)

Reduce the chances of becoming a victim of a crime this holiday season! Don't be careless...criminals don't take the holidays off! Here are some prevention tips to think about:

At Home:

- Package Thieves! If a criminal sees a box on your doorstep, they will steal first and see if it has value later. Take this opportunity away! Have a trusted neighbor pick the package up for you, or try these other prevention tips: <http://hooverpd.com/files/Package%20thefts%202016.pdf>
- Be extra cautious and remember to lock your doors/windows when you leave your house, even for a few minutes. If you have an alarm system or video surveillance, make sure they are activated.
- For vehicles parked outside, remove items from plain view. Lock the doors and make sure the alarm is activated.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts in a safe place before you go away on a holiday trip.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio (or television), so that the house appears to be occupied.
- If you take a holiday trip, don't announce it on social media before you go! Also, have some interior and exterior lights activated by an automatic timer. If your neighborhood has an active Neighborhood Watch, inform the block captain and other neighbors. They can watch your house, pick up the mail/newspaper/packages, park their car in your driveway from time to time, etc.
- Write down makes/models/serial numbers for electronics, firearms, appliances, etc. For jewelry or heirlooms, take a digital photo and keep them in a safe place. This grid can get you started: <http://hooverpd.com/files/Operation%20Identification%20GRID.pdf>
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give. If they are physically at your house, call the non-emergency number 822-5300 so we can investigate.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on the tree and make sure lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- If you have house guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they follow them.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TVs, electronics, appliances, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.
- If you see someone or something suspicious in your neighborhood, call us! 911 for emergencies and (205) 822-5300 for non-emergencies.

More Crime Prevention tips: <http://www.hooverpd.com/crime-prevention.php>