



Holiday Crime Prevention: SAFE DRIVING

As the Holiday Traffic volume will be increasing, let's be extra careful on the roadways as you finish up your Christmas shopping and running errands. Your goal should be simple: get home safe to your family.

- **Wear** your seatbelt. Make sure children are safely buckled in. Seatbelts save lives!
- **Lights on** when raining.
- **Reduce DISTRACTIONS** inside the vehicle: texting, talking on phone or other passengers, changing the stereo, etc. If you need to, pull over into a parking lot to look at the map or finish up a phone call.
- **DECREASE your speed:** speed limits are set for "ideal" conditions. This means daytime, dry and normal traffic volume. When it is wet, dark, or heavy/congested traffic, reduce your speed no matter what street you are on.
- **Don't Tailgate!** In IDEAL conditions, the minimum following distance is for every 10 MPH=20 feet of distance. So, if you are traveling 40MPH, that is 80 feet (or 26.67 yards) of distance between your front bumper and the rear of the vehicle ahead of you.
- **Merging issues.** Let them in! If you are already in the primary traffic lane, let other vehicle(s) merge in. It helps ease congestion. (It's the holidays after all!) If you are trying to merge, have patience when trying to do so.
- **Do not** drink and drive.
- **Give yourself enough time.** Plan your route and give yourself enough time to get to your destination safely. If you are in a hurry, it is reflected in your driving.
- **Make an emergency road kit.** According to AAA, a winter emergency kit should include a first aid kit, jumper cables, an ice scraper and snow brush. Also consider water, snack bars, extra phone charger, flashlight, warm clothing and some basic tools.
- **HAVE PATIENCE!!!!** The roads and the traffic lights were made for a certain amount of volume. When this volume gets dramatically increased, make sure that you are driving defensively, not aggressively.

For more excellent information on safe driving, visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/>

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