



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

The holiday season is a time of celebration, but unfortunately, can create a rich environment for certain types of crimes, thefts, and scams. Here are some important tips to help you enjoy the season and avoid becoming the victim of a crime.

Mail/Delivery Package Theft

- Choose a delivery option that allows for you to be home to receive the packages.
 - If this isn't possible, have packages delivered to your work (check with your employer first), delivered to the home of a trusted friend or relative, or held at the local Post Office for pick up.
 - Take advantage of Ship-to-Store options or Amazon's "Locker" feature.
- Request your package has Signature Confirmation on delivery.
- Track your package.
- Security camera doorbells are very helpful in prosecution of package theft offenders.

Burglary to Vehicles

- When storing items purchased at the stores, place them out of sight. The best place is in a locked trunk.
- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or cellular telephone in plain view.
- 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.
- 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.

Phone Scams

- The two most common phone scams are **you owe money**, or **you won money**. Either way, the caller will attempt to get you to send money (or gift cards), or divulge banking information.
- The IRS never announces audits via phone calls.
- Legitimate businesses won't threaten to involve police, or use profanity.
- Make it a rule to ask advice of a knowledgeable relative, friend, financial advisor or attorney before investing your money.
- Beware of unfamiliar individuals or firms calling from out of state offering fantastic or irresistible bargains.
- Remember, when dealing with telemarketing solicitations, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

Please immediately report any suspicious activity by dialing 911, and have a joyful holiday season!

If you have questions, or would like further information contact:

Crime Prevention Officer Mike O'Connor #244
Forest Park Police Department 708-615-6254