

Holiday Safety Tips

This is a wonderful magical time of year.

With the colorful holiday lights and joyful music, it's easy to forget that we may become a victim of crime. 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 and your family.



Safety at Home

When you arrive at home **have your keys ready before approaching your door**. Once you open your door, go inside immediately.

Make sure you have **strong locks** on your doors and all close easily and lock securely.

Keep doors and windows locked **at all times** even when leaving home for just a few minutes.

Keep the exterior of your home **well lit**. Leave your porch light on all night.

Wrapped gifts should not be visible through the windows or doors.

Install an **alarm and/or video surveillance system**. Consider installing a doorbell camera or have a camera pointed to the front door.

After opening gifts, **tear down boxes and packaging** and make sure they fit in recycle bins and are not visible from the street.

Do not advertise your **vacation plans** on any social media platform.

If someone tries to break into your home, immediately **call or text 911**. If possible leave your house. If not, barricade yourself inside of a room.

Make sure your **house numbers** are visible from the street so emergency vehicles can easily find your home.



Banks or ATM Safety

Use ATMs in ***well-lit, populated areas***. Do not go to the ATM at night.

Indoor grocery, retail and bank ATMs are the safest.

Scan the area. If you see a person loitering for no apparent reason, go to another location.

If you see something strange during your transaction, ***push "Cancel", take your card and leave***.

After the transaction, be alert. ***You'll have cash in hand making you a target***. Leave immediately!

If you suspect danger, ***quickly enter the nearest building or store***.



Avoid Scams

Learn how to spot ***common scams, frauds, fake websites and phishing***.

Know your seller/buyer. If you don't, do some research.

Do not give or verify ***personal or financial information*** about you or anyone else over the phone to anyone you don't personally know.

If you wish to donate, ***mail or make your donation directly*** to a recognized charitable organization.

Vehicle Safety



When driving, ***keep your doors locked and windows closed***. When possible, drive with a companion.

Plan your route before your trip and travel by freeway or well-lit, frequently-used surface streets.

When you stop your vehicle in traffic, ***leave enough room to see the tires of the vehicle ahead***. The extra space allows maneuverability for escape.

If Your Vehicle is "Bumped", don't stop or get out if you suspect the incident was deliberate.

Signal the other driver to follow; then ***drive to a secure, reasonable location*** (such as a police station), to exchange information.

If you come **Face to Face with a Carjacker**, don't resist the theft - your life is worth more than your vehicle.

Do not wait in your car in the driveway of your home

Take a **quick look at your surroundings** before you get in or out of your vehicle.

Have your vehicle **keys in hand** and be ready to unlock and enter your vehicle promptly.

Prior to entering your vehicle, **quickly scan the interior** to ensure everything is in order.

Once inside, lock all doors.

Stay away from your vehicle if you see someone loitering nearby.

Prevent Package Theft



Track deliveries online or through email notifications to confirm if delivery as occurred.

Ask a **family member or neighbor** to pick up the packages as soon as they are delivered.

Have packages delivered to an **authorized pick-up location**.



Safety on The Street

Be aware of your surroundings. **Be Alert!**

Walk with **confidence** in well-lit open areas.

Walk with **your keys in your hand** until you reach your destination.

Avoid walking at night and alone. Walk in pairs if possible.

Avoid carrying large amounts of **cash**.

Be aware of who is around you. If someone behaves suspiciously, avoid that person. Go inside a business or other public place with a crowd.

If you must make a call, **go to a safe space**, make your call, then conceal your phone.

Avoid carrying oversized purses and bags.

Carry only what you need. Keep your hands as free as possible.

Keep your valuables close to you. **Do not display them openly.**

Stay alert and **keep shopping bags nearby** – don't leave bags unattended

Avoid distractions such as wearing earbuds and talking on your cell phone

If you believe you are **being followed**, stay calm and continue walking. Cross the street, change your pace, and seek a safe place.

If anyone in a vehicle or on foot stops to speak to you, **keep a safe distance.**



Public Transportation

Keep your purses, bags and valuables close to your person and be careful of people bumping or shoving you in a particular direction.

Avoid walking alone at night near stations. Try to walk with others from the station to your car.

Avoid making cell phone calls while on BART or bus. If you must make a call, sit near the driver.

Be watchful of people **following you after you disembark** or exit the bus, BART or train.

Oakland Police Department

Victim Services



Report any suspicious activity to the Oakland Police Department: (510) 777-3211