

## Holiday Season

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends, give thanks, and ring in the new year. As you gather to celebrate with family and friends we hope that you keep in mind these and other safety tips. By providing these safety tips to our community, we hope to make your holiday celebrations safe and peaceful.

*Happy Holidays,  
from the  
Stafford Police  
Department*



### Stafford Police Department

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Created by D. Hardin—Stafford Police Department

## Stafford Police Department



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### *Holiday Safety Tips*

*The Stafford Police  
Department wishes you  
and your family a Safe  
and Happy Holiday  
Season.*

**Tel: 281-261-3950**

# Holiday Safety

While shopping, traveling or celebrating at home with family and friends practice these and other safety tips to keep your Holiday Season safe and happy.

## Safety While Shopping

- \* Shop with friends; you are less likely to be targeted if shopping in groups.
- \* When entering or exiting a store be aware of your surroundings.
- \* Pay with check, credit or debit cards.
- \* Do not carry large amounts of cash. Carry only your drivers license, checks, or necessary credit / debit cards.
- \* If making a large bank withdraw, immediately proceed to your residence and safely secure the currency.
- \* Do not carry a purse on your shoulder, this may lead to injury if your purse is snatched or grabbed. Use a clutch purse or fanny pack.
- \* Use a plain shopping bag to store your purchases when shopping at "high dollar stores".



- \* If visiting a mall food court / restaurant watch your purchases and bags; thieves can easily grab these items without notice.
- \* If shopping with small children, educate them about strangers.
- \* Have your keys ready before leaving the store.
- \* Place packages in the trunk of your vehicle. If returning to the store for additional shopping move your vehicle to another parking space.
- \* Shop during daylight hours. If shopping during evening hours, park in a well-lit, high visibility area.
- \* Lock all valuables in the trunk before entering a parking lot.
- \* Ask Security to escort you out to your vehicle if you feel uncomfortable.
- \* **Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police, store or mall security.**

## Safety at Home

- \* Keep all doors locked and window blinds and curtains closed.
- \* Keep the outside of your home well-lit and lights on an automatic timer.
- \* When arriving home from shopping check your surroundings before getting out or opening the garage door.
- \* Remove packages and items of value from your vehicle.



- \* If possible, schedule package deliveries for times when a resident or neighbor can accept the packages.
- \* Do not display gifts in plain sight of windows or doors.
- \* Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear bag before setting out for trash collection.

## Safety While Traveling

- \* Keep lights on an automatic timer.
- \* Have mail and newspaper deliveries stopped.
- \* Ask a neighbor to watch your home, park in the driveway, and collect mail / newspaper if you are unable to stop deliveries.
- \* Contact your local police department to place your home on a "house watch".



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