

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

presented by:

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District 6 Crime Prevention Unit

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Holiday Crime Prevention Tips



'Tis the season to be jolly, but it is also the season to be wary of burglars, thieves, pickpockets, and other holiday grinch.



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

Nothing can ruin
the Christmas spirit
faster than becoming the
Victim of a crime.



Protecting Your Home



Unfortunately burglars view the holiday season a little differently...for them, it is a time of opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, and gifts.



Protecting Your Home



The following are a few strategies that will help you enjoy the holidays without incident.

Protecting Your Home

Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.



Protecting Your Home



Don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it's easily visible from the street. It's too tempting for a potential criminal to smash the window and grab the wrapped packages. Or plan a later break-in based on their earlier observation.



Protecting Your Home



Don't advertise ... Burglars look for occupancy cues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, mail, or advertising flyers hanging on the door knob.



Protecting Your Home



Use an inexpensive light timer when you are away and ask a neighbor to pick up your newspapers and mail.



\$6.00 - \$25.00

Protecting Your Home



If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.

Protecting Your Home



Burglars know to look for the hidden door key near the front entrance.

Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges.

Instead give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.



Protecting Your Home



Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. A holiday problem can occur when exterior Christmas light extension cords are run inside through a window and prevent it from being secured.



Protecting Your Home



Don't post your family name on your mailbox or on your house. A burglar can call directory assistance to get your telephone number and call your home while in front of your house to confirm that you are away.

Protecting Your Home



Don't leave descriptive telephone answering machine messages like, "You've reached the Wilson's...we're away skiing for the Christmas holidays...please leave a message." Bad guys love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.

Protecting Your Home




After Christmas day, don't pile up empty gift boxes from your new computer, DVD player, or stereo receiver on the street for the garbage man. Burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside for them to steal. Break the boxes down or cut them up to conceal the items better.

Shopping Trip Tips



Christmas is a time of year during which many of us will be busy shopping and running errands in order to be ready for the Holiday Celebration. We must not forget that criminals will also be out and about looking for easy targets to make a big score.


Shopping Trip Tips



Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.

Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep you vehicle's doors locked and windows closed. This is especially relevant for SUVs.

Shopping Trip Tips



Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible. Only carry the credit cards you will need for each shopping trip.

Shopping Trip Tips

Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.

Shopping Trip Tips



To discourage purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages. Have your purchases delivered (preferably to your work) whenever practical.



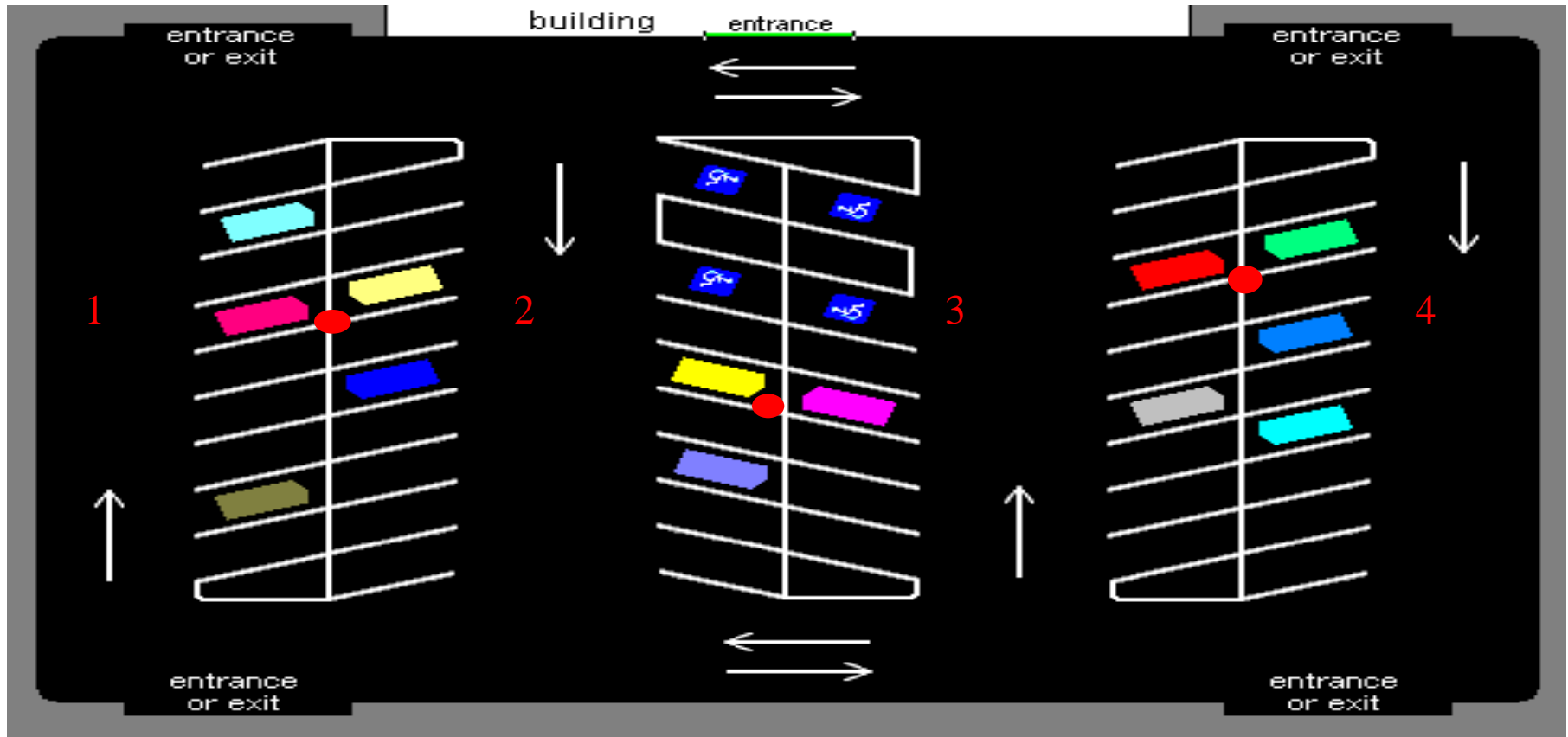
Shopping Trip Tips

Have your keys readily available in your hand before you go to your car.



Shopping Trip Tips

Shop before dark if possible. Coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how inconvenient it is.



Shopping Trip Tips



When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside. Check to see if you are being followed.

Robber hides in back seat.

Shopping Trip Tips

Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.



Vacation Watch Program

<http://www.mocosherriff.com/vacationdbz.cfm>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH SERVICES, CITIZENS ACADEMY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, NON-CONSENT TOWING, and CONTACT US. Below this is a secondary menu with icons for ADMINISTRATION, DIVISIONS, RECORDS, MAIL, TRAINING, and CRIME STOPPERS. The main content area features a "Vacation Watch Form" section. It includes a "Please provide your questions and comments below" instruction, a "Vacation Request" section with radio buttons for "New Request" and "Cancel Request", and a "Title:" section with radio buttons for "Mr.", "Mrs.", and "Ms.". The form contains several input fields for personal information: Home Owner Name, Date Leaving, Date Returning, Home Phone, Cell Phone, Alternate Phone, Email Address, Street Address, Street Address 2, City, State/Province, Postal (Zip) Code, Emergency Contact Name, and Emergency Contact Phone.

This screenshot shows the right side of the Vacation Watch Form. It contains several text input fields: Postal (Zip) Code, Emergency Contact Name, Emergency Contact Phone, Emergency Contact Relation, Alarm Company Used, and Alarm Company Phone. Below these are three large text areas for "Lights at Location", "Vehicles at Location", and "Pets at Location". At the bottom of the form is a "Questions and/or Comments" text area. At the very bottom of the page, there are "Submit" and "Clear Form" buttons. The footer of the page includes the text "Site Designed & Powered by ConnetToday.com" and "Email Webmaster".

And Remember...

NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE

**Choose your ride.
Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.**



DRUNK DRIVING
IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS.

CBS Save a Life
DRINK RESPONSIBLY.