



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Holiday Safety Tips

Chief of Police Luis C. Tigera and the Niles Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau wish to raise public awareness to make your holiday season a safe and happy one, by following the safety tips below, can help to reduce your risk to being victimized or being a victim.

Package Theft – We all get delivered during the holidays. Because of the volume of package deliveries during the holiday season, thieves have a variety of choices. To reduce the risk here are some quick tips.

1. Use Smart Package Lockers or a Convenience Service Store, such as FedEx or UPS.
2. Have packages delivered to your workplace
3. Install a Security Camera at your Front Door
4. Require a signature at Delivery, or the package will be held
5. Reroute or reschedule delivery to when you are available

Burglary – The Holiday season is a time that burglaries to homes and autos always go on the rise. Here are some safety tips to follow:

1. *Alarm systems*, which make noise and are connected to a monitoring service help reduce the risk to your home.
2. *Have a doorbell video surveillance camera*. Many burglars will knock or ring first to see if anyone is home. Being able to answer the door remotely puts the potential burglar in an unexpected situation.
3. *Close your blinds* so that burglars can't see into your residence
4. *When leaving the home* for an extended period of time, put interior lights on timers
5. *When you leave home* turn on a TV or radio that is loud enough to be heard from the front door.

Car Theft/Auto Burglary – The theft of your or items from being taken from your vehicle can be an emotional experience. These simple tips can help prevent it from happening.

1. Remove your keys from the ignition, this include the key fob.
2. Lock your doors and close your windows.
3. Park in well lighted areas.
4. Remove your valuables from sight or from your vehicle.
5. Ensure that your garage doors are secured.

Identity Theft – Identity theft is the fastest growing crime that can impact your financial future for many years. Understanding how quickly you can be a victim of identity theft, can help prevent you from becoming a victim.

1. Set auto lock with a password on your smart phone, computer and tablet.
2. Set privacy settings on your social networks so only friends can see.
3. Use a variety of passwords rather than the same one for all accounts.
4. Utilize the State of Illinois free annual credit checks through the three major Credit Reporting Bureaus annually.
5. Protect your mail, be sure you know when you bills and statements should arrive. If they haven't arrived in a timely manner contact that account provider.
6. Don't carry multiple credit cards if you don't have too. Especially your social security card or your Medicare card.
7. Shred all your documents don't leave those documents laying around the house.

Carjacking's – have been occurring at an alarming rate, living in the suburbs does not mean that it will not happen here. Following these simple tips can reduce the risk.

1. *Be Aware of Where Your Car Is:* Watch where you park and drive. Park close to where you need to go in a well-lit area. Keep at least one car length between your car and the car ahead of you while driving. This gives you an escape if needed.
2. *When pumping gas into your vehicle,* you should shut off, lock your vehicle and take your car keys with you. The majority of the vehicles that were stolen were taken because the keys were in the car and it was running.
3. *Your Phone is your enemy;* sitting in your driver seat, looking at your phone can make you a target. Using social media, listening to music with headphones or having a conversation sitting in your car makes you a target. You should be always looking around and paying attention to your location and the people around your vehicle.
4. *When using an ATM,* select an ATM that is well light and in the open. Have your ATM card ready before your pull up. Keep your vehicle in drive and check your rearview mirror to be sure that someone isn't approaches you.
5. *If the person is armed,* and you are alone let them take the vehicle. Your life is of more value.