



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Released on 11/30/2018

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 an enjoyable time. The following safety tips can help to reduce your risk to being victimized or targeted by criminals. .

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.