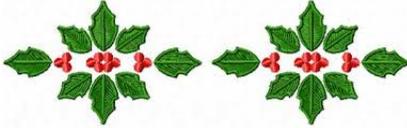




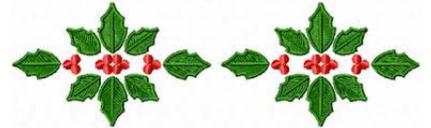
Crime Prevention Tips

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
13101 East Broncos Parkway, Centennial, CO 80112
David C. Walcher, Sheriff

Community
Resources
Unit



Holiday Safety Tips



The holiday season can provide opportunities for criminals. Please take the following precautions to ensure the safety of you and your family:

Before You Shop

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Be extremely careful using ATM machines. Use them in well-lit, high traffic areas and constantly pay attention to what is going on around you.
- Make sure children know what to do should they become lost or separated. Create a family emergency plan prior to leaving the home (where to meet, who to call, etc.).
- Be prepared for unexpected events such as bad weather or vehicle problems.

While Shopping

- Avoid carrying large purses. If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body and keep it closed. Do **NOT** leave it in an unattended shopping cart. Carry only what you need.
- Park in well-lit areas with lots of pedestrian traffic and as close to the entrance as possible.
- Remember where you parked your car. Make a mental note, write it down, or take a photo with your phone so you will know exactly where to go when you leave the store.
- Try to leave the store well before closing time. Doing so will assure that you walk out with other people. There is safety in numbers.
- Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less tired.
- Be sure to get all forms of I.D. and credit cards returned to you before leaving. Report lost credit cards immediately.
- Store security can escort you to your car upon request if you have too many packages or if you are leaving the store after closing.
- When leaving, be aware of your surroundings. As you approach your car, look around, underneath, and inside your car for anything suspicious. Hiding in the parking lot is a common practice for criminals and they will take you by surprise.
- Keep your keys in your hand, with one key out between your knuckles, when walking to your car. You can use that key as a defensive weapon if you are attacked.
- Keep your packages stored out of sight in the trunk of your car.

At Home

- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows.
- Criminals will often look for packages left outside a residence. If possible, have your packages delivered to your place of employment or an occupied residence.
- Keep a watchful eye out for suspicious vehicles and activities in your neighborhood and report them to law enforcement.
- After opening gifts, break down cardboard boxes of expensive electronics and from high-end stores and put them in plastic bags before putting them out with the trash. Hide the fact you have valuable items in your home.
- Lock all of your doors and windows when you leave your residence, even for a few minutes.
- Be wary of solicitors for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used and if contributions are tax deductible. If you are suspicious about their behavior, contact the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office.

If you have any questions, contact Deputy Scott Sickafoose at (720) 874-4040, email ssickafoose@arapahoe.gov, or Deputy Brian McKnight at (720) 874-3750, email bmcknight@arapahoe.gov.

**To report a crime, call the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at
(303) 795-4711 or 911 for emergencies.**

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season



*Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,
professionalism and community spirit.*