

# Crime Prevention Tips

## Holiday Safety

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime.

### If you are traveling:

- ★ Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- ★ Ask a neighbor to watch your home.
- ★ Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.

### If you are out for the evening:

- ★ Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.
- ★ Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- ★ Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

### If you are shopping:

- ★ Be aware of your surroundings.
- ★ Park in a well lighted area.
- ★ Lock your vehicle doors.
- ★ If you have an alarm, use it.
- ★ If possible, return to your vehicle in groups.
- ★ When returning to your vehicle, have your keys out and ready.
- ★ Check the front and back floor areas of your vehicle before entering.
- ★ If you have packages stored in your vehicle, make sure they are hidden.
- ★ If you see anything suspicious, CALL 9-1-1 or return to the store and call for security.
- ★ Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

## General Crime Prevention Tips

- ★ The following tips can help prevent you from becoming a victim of a crime. If you have any questions about these tips, please call the Bridge City Police Department.
- ★ Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away from it, even for "just a minute".
- ★ Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home or you are just running into the store for a minute.
- ★ Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight. Buy radios, tape and CD players that can be removed and locked in the trunk.
- ★ Park in busy, well-lighted areas.
- ★ Consider installing a security system. You may be able to get a discount on your auto insurance.
- ★ Install a mechanical locking device (club, collar) that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Use it!
- ★ Etch the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the windows, doors, fenders, and trunk lid.
- ★ Copy the VIN and your tag number on a card and keep it in a safe place. If your vehicle is stolen, the police need this information.
- ★ If your car is stolen or burglarized, report it to the police immediately.