



THE TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY SECURITY CHECKLIST

Your safety is of the utmost importance to the Tallahassee Police Department. During the holiday season, crime tends to increase. We offer the following safety tips to assist you in having a safer and happier holiday.

Going HOME FOR THE holidays . .

- Trim shrubbery so it does not block windows or doors and insure that your home has adequate lighting after dark.
- Leave a spare key with a neighbor or relative instead of keeping it outside. If you choose to place a key outside, insure that it is not kept nearby flowerpot, etc.
- Use timers on lights, radios, and television sets to give the impression that someone is home when the house is unoccupied. Timers with a built-in random time function to vary the time that lights, and other appliances are turned on, are best for accomplishing this task.
- Change all of the old locks immediately after moving into a new home or apartment to eliminate the

possibility of someone using any old keys that may have been lost.

- Insure that all ground-floor windows and doors have secure dead-bolt locks.
- Before leaving home, insure that your garage door is completely closed. If an interior door connects the garage to your home, insure that the door is also locked.
- Keep upstairs windows locked. Someone could climb a nearby tree to gain access to a second-floor window. Prune any large trees to keep limbs away from the house.
- Empty boxes from newly purchased electronic equipment are an inviting sign to opportunistic thieves. Destroy boxes as soon as possible.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

- ◇ Park in highly visible lots where there is a lot of activity.
- ◇ If you are parking during the daytime and are not planning to return to your vehicle until after dark, pick a well-lighted area to leave your vehicle.
- ◇ **ALWAYS** lock your doors—even if you are only going to be gone for a few minutes.
- ◇ Don't leave anything visible inside of your vehicle—even something as simple as spare change or a cellular phone. Thieves are opportunists!!
- ◇ If you think that someone is following you, don't stop at your car. Instead, keep walking and try to find help.
- ◇ If you drive a sports utility type vehicle with a high road clearance, be careful of someone hiding underneath. Don't forget to look underneath your vehicle as well as the back seat before entering.

AT THE ATM

- * Choose an ATM that is in a well-lighted area.
- * If you need to use an ATM after dark, ask a friend to accompany you.
- * Don't initiate a transaction if there is anyone around that you find suspicious.
- * Put away your cash, card, and receipt before leaving the ATM machine.

HOLIDAY VACATION

- ◆ If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, consider hiring a "house sitter".
- ◆ Keep an outside light on all night, not just when you go away.
- ◆ Lock garbage cans in a storage room, or have someone share their garbage with you while you are gone.
- ◆ Leave window coverings, as they normally would be.
- ◆ **DO NOT** stop deliveries. Have a neighbor pick them up for you, as well as circulars that accumulate by the front door.
- ◆ Make arrangements to have your lawn

cut while you are away.

- ◆ Turn your telephone ringer down to low or turn on the answering machine.
- ◆ Store items such as lawn furniture, garden tools and hanging baskets in a secure area of your residence.
- ◆ Consider asking a neighbor to park a vehicle in your driveway during your absence.
- ◆ Leave a phone number with a neighbor where you can be contacted in case of an emergency.
- ◆ Call the Tallahassee Police Department (850) 891-4200 and request an *Extra Protection* for your home.

**Have a safe
and happy holiday season . . .**

**Tallahassee Police Department
234 East 7th Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
(850) 891-4200**

