

12/15/09

Tips for a Safe Holiday Season



From the Union City PD Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS Unit)

Make This Holiday Season a Safe And Happy One

At Home

- Be sure to lock doors and windows when you leave home, even if you are gone for a few minutes. Keep them locked while you are home.
- Do not display gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so that your home appears occupied.
- If you leave home for a holiday trip, use an automatic timer for lights. Have a friend watch your home, pick up mail and newspaper and park their car in your driveway.
- Mark your valuables with a unique ID number. Record the serial numbers on items such as TV's, stereo and other electronic equipment. This allows us to enter it into a computer database and allows us to identify the property as stolen if needed.
- Be aware of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. Scam artists use the holidays to advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for ID, how funds are to be used and if they are tax deductible.
- Test smoke detectors to ensure they are working. Use fire resistant ornaments and make sure lights are in good working condition. Do not leave lights on overnight or when you are away from home.

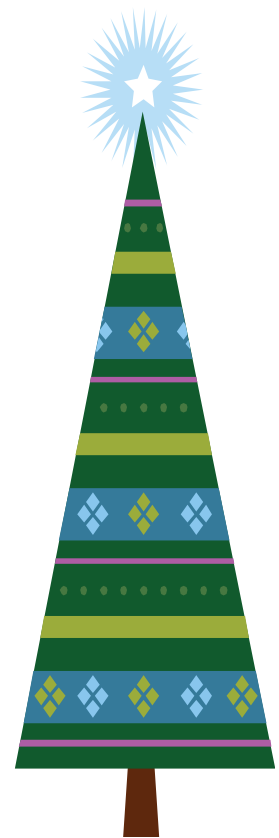
HOLIDAY PARTY SAFETY

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Serve something to eat before serving alcoholic beverages. High protein foods stay in the stomach longer and slow absorption of alcohol into the system.
- Have alternative transportation available for intoxicated persons. Do not allow guests to drink and drive

- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases like TV's and computers out on the curb for trash pickup.

SHOPPING

- Shop before dark and with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock your packages and gifts in the trunk of your vehicle. Keep all window and doors locked at all times.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with credit cards.
- To discourage thieves, do not overburden yourself with gifts.
- Carry a purse securely between your arm and body. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket instead of a back pocket.
- Teach your children to get to a store clerk or security guard if they need help. They should never go into a parking lot or public restroom alone.



Important Numbers
Emergency- 911
Non-Emergency- 510-471-1365
Hayward CHP- 510-489-1500

