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## 2017 Holiday Safety Tips

The West Valley Patrol Division wants to ensure the City of Cupertino has a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. Property Crimes generally increase in this busy time of year. With that in mind, we want to remind residents of a few simple tips to reduce crime and keep the community safe during this upcoming holiday season.

### Safety at Home:

- ❖ Be cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your home, even if only for a few minutes.
  - Secure Doors & Windows- Dead bolts will help fortify your front door; also be sure to close and lock ALL windows, even on a second story. If you have a gate on the side of your home or at the front of your driveway, keep that closed and locked as well.
- ❖ Beware of strangers approaching at home or in public for any reason. At this time of year, criminals may try various methods of surveillance with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
  - Immediately report all suspicious behavior to the Sheriff's Office. Residents have the best familiarity with what is normal behavior and activity for their neighborhood. Don't hesitate to report any and all suspicious behavior. **Emergency: 9-1-1 or Non-Emergency 408-299-2311**
- ❖ If you are going to leave home for an extended period of time
  - Have a trusted neighbor or family member watch your home and pick up newspapers and/or mail.
  - Make arrangements with package carriers (UPS, FedEx, USPS) to avoid packages being left on doorsteps for long periods of time unattended.
  - Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer. Consider leaving a TV/Radio ON as well.
    - ◆ Automatic timers should be set in various rooms throughout the home. This will give the illusion to burglars that someone is home at all times.
  - Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows of your home.
  - Hide/safely secure ALL jewelry, cash, & important documents.
  - Request a Sheriff's Office Patrol Check <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/Pages/pcr.aspx>

### Shopping/ Around Cupertino:

- ❖ Always stay alert of your surroundings.
  - Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- ❖ Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle. If you must secure valuables in the trunk or glove compartment, secure them before arriving at your parking destination.
  - In the evening, park in areas with good lighting and lots of pedestrian traffic
  - Never leave valuable items visible in an unattended vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked at home.
- ❖ Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
  - Dress casually and comfortably.
  - Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
  - Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
  - Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- ❖ Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
  - Check your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized activity.
- ❖ Be extra careful if you carry a wallet, purse, or cell phone. Those items are prime targets in crowded shopping areas. Keep your valuables close to you at all times.