

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
1 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE  
SCOTTS VALLEY, CA. 95066  
(831) 440-5670

PRESS RELEASE

**SVPD CASE NUMBER:** HOLIDAY SEASON CRIME PREVENTION TIPS  
**LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:** CITY OF SCOTTS VALLEY  
**OFFICER IN CHARGE:** SERGEANT MIKE DEAN

**SYNOPSIS:**

THE SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME SOUND ADVICE TO HELP ENSURE YOUR HOLIDAYS ARE HAPPY ONES. THERE ARE INCREASED RISKS OF BEING THE VICTIM OF THEFT, RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY, OR A DRUNK DRIVER. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF CRIME. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO DO YOUR PART TO MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A SAFE AND HAPPY TIME FOR EVERYONE, EXCEPT CRIMINALS.

**SHOPPING TIPS:**

- 1) EVEN WHEN RUSHED, STAY ALERT TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU, AVOID SHOPPING ALONE AS THERE IS SAFETY IN NUMBERS.
- 2) AVOID CARRYING LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH AND BE EXTRA CAREFUL WITH PURSES AND WALLETS DURING THIS TIME. DO NOT PLACE PURSES IN SHOPPING CARTS, IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT OF DISTRACTION FOR SOMEONE TO GRAB IT. CARRY YOUR PURSE UNDER YOUR ARM AND YOUR WALLET IN AN INSIDE POCKET.
- 3) WHEN PAYING WITH CREDIT CARDS, WATCH YOUR CARD DURING TRANSACTIONS. MAKE SURE IT IS USED FOR YOUR PURCHASE ONLY. KEEP YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER HIDDEN AND SECURE FROM OTHERS.
- 4) LOCK YOUR CAR AND CLOSE THE WINDOWS, EVEN IF YOU ARE GONE FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES. LOCK YOUR PACKAGES IN THE TRUNK.
- 5) ALWAYS HAVE YOUR KEYS READY BY THE TIME YOU GET TO YOUR CAR, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF PACKAGES.

**HOME SECURITY:**

- 1) BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS ABOUT LOCKING DOORS AND WINDOWS WHEN YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE. DO NOT PUT LARGE DISPLAYS OF HOLIDAY GIFTS IN VIEW OF WINDOWS.
- 2) USE AUTOMATIC TIMERS FOR YOUR LIGHTS AND HAVE A NEIGHBOR WATCH YOUR HOUSE AND PICK UP NEWSPAPERS AND MAIL (OR DISCONTINUE SERVICE) IF YOU ARE GONE DURING THE HOLIDAYS.
- 3) KEEP YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE WATERED TO AVOID IT DRYING OUT AND BECOMING A FIRE HAZARD. UNPLUG YOUR TREE BEFORE LEAVING.
- 4) MAKE SURE NOT TO OVERLOAD YOUR ELECTRICAL OUTLETS WITH TOO MANY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS.
- 5) DO NOT LEAVE BURNING CANDLES OR OPEN FLAMES UNATTENDED.
- 6) LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN PARKED AT YOUR HOUSE AND AVOID LEAVING VALUABLES INSIDE.

**PARTY SAFETY:**

- 1) HAVE NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PARTY GUESTS.
- 2) HAVE FOOD AVAILABLE. IF YOU EAT SOMETHING BEFORE CONSUMING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, YOU WILL SLOW THE ABSORPTION RATE OF THE ALCOHOL.
- 3) STOP SERVING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WELL BEFORE THE END OF THE PARTY.
- 4) IF A GUEST APPEARS TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE, OFFER TO CALL A CAB, HAVE ANOTHER GUEST DRIVE THEM HOME OR OFFER TO LET THEM STAY THE NIGHT. DO NOT LET THEM DRIVE.
- 5) WHEN GOING OUT, DESIGNATE A SOBER DRIVER OR MAKE ALTERNATE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS.
- 6) REMEMBER - DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

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