



MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

December, 2014

Christmas Holiday
Safety Tips



Christmas is a joyous time of the year to get together with family and friends and to remember to celebrate the “real reason for the season,” the birth of Jesus.

Following are some safety tips that, if you follow them, will help to make the season safer and ultimately more enjoyable:

Christmas Trees –

- ✓ Purchases green, moist trees - not ones that are brittle or old. Check to see that the needles will bend and not break.
- ✓ Cut off a piece of the bottom so that new wood can soak up the water better and check the water daily.
- ✓ Locate your tree away from ignition sources such as fireplaces, space heaters, live candles, etc.,
- ✓ Make sure that you have a steady base for the tree.

Christmas Lights & Extension Cords-

- ✓ Use only UL or FM approved extension cords.
- ✓ Make sure that the cord is heavy enough to carry the load. The thicker the cord the heavier load it will accommodate without heating up.
- ✓ Do not overload outlets! Use surge protectors if multiple outlets are needed.
- ✓ Replace broken bulbs immediately that have exposed filaments.
- ✓ Refrain from running cords under doorways or hallways with doors that could ultimately cause the cords to fray.

Toys & Ornaments-

- ✓ Purchase the appropriate toys for the age of the child. Refrain from buying older age toys for younger kids, as they could get injured.
- ✓ Toys with sharp points, edges, strings, cords or parts small enough to be swallowed should not be given to small children.
- ✓ Place older ornaments and decorations with lead paint out of the reach of small children and pets.

Parties-

- ✓ Do not ever drink and drive!
- ✓ Provide non-alcoholic drinks for designated drivers and other guests.
- ✓ Avoid live candles at parties, and if smoking is allowed, have ample ash trays located around the home. Check them periodically during the party for careless smokers and smoldering butts. After the party, be sure to check and empty them all in an incinerated container.

Holiday Shopping Tips-

The Christmas holiday season is a special time. Folks are hustling, bustling; the time is futile for shopping and preparing for family and friend parties. If we aren't careful, safety and security might get a little slack. Following we shall discuss some tips that, if followed, will enhance your safety and security during the holiday season. During this time especially, we can't be too careful, too prepared or too aware.

Shopping-

- Shop during the daylight hours. If you have to shop at night, do so with a friend or “buddy.”

- Dress casually and comfortably. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry. Avoid carrying a purse or wallet.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use plastic where possible in lieu of cash. Don't forget to have your drivers' licenses or ID with you. Carry your cash, licenses and cards in your front pocket.
- Place your purchases in your trunk or back of your SUV where they aren't so conspicuous.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages so that you don't have clear visibility returning to your vehicle.
- If you are approached by a “suspect thief” and he wants your purse, throw it in the opposite direction of where he is standing. And you run like the devil in the opposite direction. Chances are that he wants your money and not you. When you are safe alert the police or security.
- Be cognizant of your surroundings in the parking lot. Watch for strangers or vans/suvs parked close to your vehicle. Thieves like to park close to a suspect culprit for easy prey. When leaving a shopping area for your vehicle, if a stranger is lurking around your vehicle, return to the area and seek a security officer to assist you to your vehicle or wait until the stranger leaves the area.
- Have your keys handy as you approach your vehicle. Once inside be sure to lock the doors and leave the area ASAP.
- Look inside your vehicle, front and back, as you approach it to unlock the doors. As you are approaching, be aware of your surroundings.
- For night shopping - look to park in well-lighted areas.
- Park as close to your shopping destination as possible.

Shopping with Children-

- If possible leave small children with relatives or a sitter.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk if they get separated from you. Also teach them to stay close to you at all times when shopping. Don't allow them to go to the restroom without you waiting close by.
- Teach your kids your phone numbers, home address, etc., to be able to give it to police or security officers at the mall.

ATM Shopping Safety-

- As mentioned above, use credit/debit cards as much as possible when shopping and protect them as you would with cash. Memorize your pin number to avoid wasting time looking for it and avoid allowing bystanders to see it.
- If you have to withdraw money at night, do it in a well-lit area or in a dark area have a “buddy” with you.
- If individuals are hanging around the ATM machine, find another or wait until the area is clear.
- Once you finish your transaction, close your window, lock the doors and drive off.

Thieves or potential thieves have no consciences. Their motive is to get whatever they can, anyway they can. For your sake and safety, use any means possible to avoid their apprehension and loss of your goods, finances, and possibly your health.

**BE SAFE; NOT SORRY
THE GOODS OR LIFE YOU SAVE MAY
BE YOUR OWN!!!**

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