

SAFE HOLIDAY TIPS: *The Norfolk Police Department Crime Prevention Unit*

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers, and pickpockets a chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime. As a crime prevention measure during the holiday season, police would like to remind everyone in our communities that many of our activities increase our potential for victimization. Criminals are aware that people carry more cash on their persons and make more purchases during the holidays. Your assistance is needed in reducing the number of larcenies of personal property from vehicles and employee workstations. These items usually include purses, wallets, cell phones, laptops, and handbags. **You can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of a larceny, robbery or burglary by following a few crime prevention practices.**

#1 . Lock up your valuables! Lock them inside your office, desk drawer, car trunk, or cabinet. or just keep them with you (DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS UNATTENDED). Keep a ledger of property serial numbers to aid police in the event property does turn up missing or stolen. If you must leave packages or valuables in your vehicle make sure they are hidden from plain view, preferably locked in trunk.

#2 . Tighten security practices at work! Most thieves look for opportunities to test the security of businesses. Have someone available to greet anyone who enters the business to be sure they are there for a legitimate reason. Suggest to employees not to prop open/leave unlocked outer security/deliver/stairwell doors during smoke breaks or loading times and to be sure doors are relocked and that no one has entered they do not recognize.

#3 – Tighten security practices at Home! Don't leave unlocked doors or windows and be sure not to open a door to anyone you do not recognize. Double check all windows latches and security devices. Make sure they are in good working order. Always leave a light on inside house. A censored flood light is a good deterrence device to have for the outdoors, especially for those dark areas around the house.

#4 . If an incident does occur provide the police with details! Notify the police immediately with the following: Suspect's race, sex, approximate age, clothing description, height, weight, and physical features, (glasses, facial hair, tattoos, etc), last location/direction/mode of travel (bike, vehicle, license plate, state, color, model, etc). Have victims/witnesses stand by for police to make report and exchange information.

(DO NOT ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND A SUSPECT YOURSELF)
CALL 441-5610 for Non-Emergency Police Concerns and 911 for Emergencies