



PALM BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
Kirk W. Blouin, Director of Public Safety
345 South County Road
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Non-Emergency call (561) 838-5454
Crime Prevention Services call (561) 838-5467
In any emergency POLICE/FIRE/MEDICAL call 9-1-1

SEASONAL CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The Palm Beach Police Department reminds all residents that the holiday season generates specific types of criminal activity. You must be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Police are asking residents to take these security measures:

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a thief. Secure your vehicle at all times. Never leave handbags, briefcases, cell phones, wallets, cash or any other valuables in plain view.
- Take special precautions when you visit shopping malls, restaurants and other public places over the holiday season. Whenever possible bring a friend along and shop before dark. Park in a well-lit area. Don't walk alone to your car if you are parked in a remote part of a mall parking lot. If you observe anything suspicious, such as someone sitting in a vehicle parked next to yours, return to the mall and contact security.
- If someone attempts to take your handbag do not fight to keep it. Instead release the handbag and run the other way. To reduce any possible loss, do not keep unnecessary valuables in your handbag
- When shopping online only visit sites of reputable merchants or those with whom you have done business in the past. Ask about warranties and return policies and keep records of your purchases. Using a dedicated credit card for all your online shopping will assist you in keeping track of purchases and returns.
- Thieves know there will be many expensive gifts under the tree. Don't invite the burglars in by leaving doors and windows unlocked. If you are in the back garden make sure your front door is locked and vice versa. If you have an alarm use it at all times. Call your alarm company to schedule a test of the system each season and replace the back-up battery as needed.
- The term "imposter burglars" refers to thieves who represent themselves as representatives of utility, cable, telephone, appliance or any other service companies. Don't open the door if you do not know the person knocking. If the person(s) says he is from a utility company (and you have not called for the service) ask him to wait outside and contact police immediately by calling 838-5454 or, in any emergency, dial 9-1-1. You might say - "please wait while I secure my dog" or "please wait while I unlock another door for you." This will give you time to call the police department.
- **REMEMBER - "If you see something - say something."** If you become suspicious about any individuals, vehicles or activities call the Palm Beach Police Department right away by dialing **838-5454 or 9-1-1**. Always trust your instincts and call police as soon as your suspicions are aroused.

11/21/2016