

## TAKE AN INVENTORY

Make good use of your holiday time. Take an inventory of your property. This is especially good for insurance purposes in case of burglary or fire. Make a video or take photos of your items and make a list of these valuable items on the official HPD "Operation I.D." brochure. On this brochure you should list such things as TV's, VCR's, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, jewelry, silver, power tools, home-office equipment, sporting equipment, and computers.

Also, make sure you follow the instructions in the "Operation I.D." brochure to properly mark these items with your Texas drivers license or Texas identification number.

Keep a copy of the videos, pictures, and your "Operation I.D." list in a fireproof safe or safety deposit box. This will definitely make insurance claims easier to file.

# STAY SAFE

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*Have a Happy Holiday*



## HOUSTON POLICE STATIONS

Airport-Bush	281-230-6800
Airport-Hobby	713-845-6800
Central	713-247-4400
Clear Lake	281-218-3800
Eastside	713-928-4600
Fondren	713-773-7900
Kingwood	281-913-4500
Midwest	281-597-6000
North	281-405-5300
Northeast	713-635-0200
Northwest	713-744-0900
South Central	832-394-0200
Southeast	713-731-5000
Southwest	713-314-3900
Special Operations	832-394-0000
Westside	281-584-4700

For more information visit:  
[www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)



*Keep* **Houston**  
**SAFE**  
[www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)

Houston Police Department  
Public Affairs Division  
Community Services Unit  
1200 Travis, Suite 2100  
Houston, TX 77002  
713-308-3200



# HOLIDAY SAFETY



## HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Office of the  
Chief of Police*

This Holiday Season, protect yourself, your family and your property against criminals wishing to do you harm. Criminals have a “desire” to commit crimes against those who are not aware of what is going on around them. The holidays are an opportune time for a criminal to commit these offenses. Know your surroundings and don’t become a “target.” It’s up to YOU to make sure that a criminal does not have the “opportunity” to take advantage of you and your family.

## USE COMMON SENSE

### STAY CALM

#### WHILE SHOPPING

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit, or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your drivers license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. You could risk injury from a would-be purse snatcher. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket. It should be placed in a front pocket for safety.

- Be alert, criminals look for the “high dollar store” shopping bags with your purchases. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain nondescript bag.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags as well as purses can easily be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost as well as what to do if a “stranger” should try and take them.
- Don’t overburden yourself with too many packages. This jeopardizes your safety while walking to your vehicle. Either make multiple trips to your vehicle or have your packages sent to package pick-up where you may retrieve them in a well-lit and heavily populated area.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store. They also make a great weapon, should you need to defend yourself.
- If you do return to your vehicle to unload packages and continue shopping, place your purchases in the trunk. Be observant of anyone watching, and if possible, move the vehicle to another parking space to deter a burglary of your vehicle.
- Try not to shop until the store closes. Remember, fewer people are present at this time.

#### IN PARKING LOTS

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during the hours of darkness.
- DO NOT park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows. Waiting assailants can be obscured from view upon your return.
- Before shopping, lock all your valuables in the trunk prior to parking in the parking lot.

- Leave the store with a group of people, not alone.
- Ask the Security Officer to escort you to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well as outside the store. If you suspect that you are being followed, report it to the store or mall Security. Report it immediately.



#### AT HOME

- Keep the outside of your home well-lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don’t display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don’t advertise gifts received by the boxes left for trash collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear bag.

#### IF YOU ARE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, collect mail, park in the driveway, etc.
- Try to remember to have the mail and newspaper deliveries stopped. If it piles up, it’s a sure sign your gone. Because emergencies may occur, this is not always possible. Rely on friends and neighbors to help.