

# Season's Greetings

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

San Gabriel Police Department • 625 S. Del Mar Avenue • San Gabriel, CA 91776 • (626) 308-2828 • Issue No. 259

### To all our Neighborhood Watch Members

On behalf of the San Gabriel Police Department, we would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous Holiday Season. Even though this is a special time of celebration and good cheer, for many it is also a time when thieves may strike to make you a victim of a burglary, robbery, scam, auto theft, etc.

Here are a few helpful reminders that can help prevent you from being their target this holiday season:

- Don't display gifts under your tree in plain view of your windows or doors.
- Be extra careful about locking all doors and windows (even a bathroom window) when you leave your home, even if you just plan on being gone a couple of minutes.
- Use automatic timers, dusk to dawn light sensors, motion sensors, etc. for outside and inside lights and radios. These should be used all the time; not just when you are away.
- Don't advertise all the new items you received for Christmas. Break the package boxes down and place them inside your trash bin.
- Mark all your new items with your California Driver's License or I.D. number when appropriate.
- Do not open your door for strangers; ask for proper identification. When in doubt, call the group they say they represent to verify before giving out any personal information.
- Do not give out personal information over the telephone unless you know for sure who you are talking with. Tell the caller you will call them back; then look up the telephone number and return the call. Do not use any telephone number they provide that can be part of the scam.
- Be sure to share these helpful hints with everyone in your household.

Remember, joining the Neighborhood Watch Program with your neighbors may be the best deterrent against crime in your area. To arrange a meeting call (626) 308-2846.

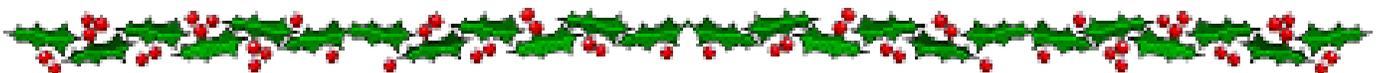
**Choose your ride.**  
Drink. Drive. Go to Jail.

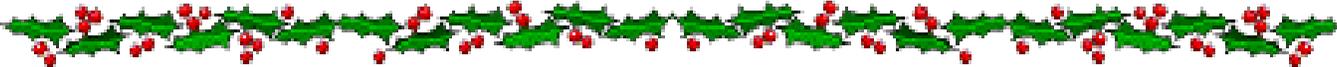


**If you notice anything suspicious or out of place call the San Gabriel Police Department at  
(626) 308-2828 (non-emergency) 9-1-1 (emergency)**

**Have your newsletters and crime bulletins delivered by e-mail  
contact the Crime Prevention Office at [sg551@sgpd.com](mailto:sg551@sgpd.com)**

**Receive alerts from the City of San Gabriel at <https://local.nixle.com/register/> or text your  
91775 or 91776 to 888777 for mobile alerts.**





## *Holiday Safety Tips:*

*Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe during the holidays.*

It's that time of year again when we enjoy festive meals with family and friends, deck our halls with colorful decorations and listen to squeals of delight as our children open their brightly-wrapped presents. To help ensure your kids have fun and stay safe this holiday, here are a few tips to remember.

### **Decorate Your Tree With Your Kids in Mind**

- Kids are curious and will want to play with the ornaments on the tree, so you might as well prepare. Move the ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks towards the top of the tree. That makes room at the bottom for the ones that are safer for young kids.

### **Water the Tree Regularly**

- Natural trees look beautiful and smell great, but if they're not watered regularly, needles can dry out and pose a potential fire hazard. Make sure your tree has plenty of water by checking it regularly.

### **Check the Lights**

- Lights are one of the best parts of holiday decorating. Take a look at the ones on your tree and in and around your home for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.

### **Blow Out Candles and Store Matches Out of Reach**

- Keep holiday candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and don't forget to blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
  - Make a habit of placing matches and lighters in a safe place, out of children's reach. Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.

### **Keep Harmful Plants Out of Reach**

- Plants can spruce up your holiday decorating, but keep those that may be poisonous out of reach of children or pets. This includes mistletoe berries, holly berry, and Jerusalem cherry. In a poison emergency, call the national Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

### **Find the Perfect Toy for the Right Age**

- Consider your child's age when purchasing a toy or game this holiday season. It's worth a second to read the instructions and warning labels to make sure the gift is just right.
- Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.

### **Keep Button Batteries Away from Young Kids**

- Keep a special eye on small pieces, including button batteries that may be included in electronic toys. While these kinds of games are great for older kids, they can pose a potential danger for younger, curious siblings.

### **Don't Forget a Helmet for New Bikes or Other Toys**

- If your child's heart is set on a bike, skateboard or scooter this holiday season, be sure to include a helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.
- Prevent Spills with Pot Handles**
  - Kids love to reach, so to prevent burns from hot holiday food or liquid spills, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the edge.

### **Engage Older Kids in Cooking**

- Teach older responsible kids how to cook safely. Teach them never to leave the kitchen while they're using the stove or oven. Instruct older kids to use oven mitts or potholders to remove items from the oven or stove and teach them how to use a microwave safely.
- Avoid Placing Foods on an Open Oven Door**
  - Your oven door may not be as strong as you think. To prevent oven tip-overs, place heavy foods or other items on a counter top out of the reach of young children, and not on an open oven door.
  - An anti-tip bracket is a valuable tool to prevent oven tip-overs. If you have one, simply follow the manufacturer's instructions to install and use properly.

### **Check Your Car Seat Before Holiday Travel**

- Seventy-three percent of car seats are not used or installed correctly, so before you hit the road, check your car seat. Here's a quick car seat checklist to help you out. It takes only 15 minutes. If you are having even the slightest trouble, questions or concerns, certified child passenger safety technicians are able to help or even double check your work. Find a Safe Kids car seat checkup event near you.

*For more information visit [safekids.org](http://safekids.org).*

