



Season's Greetings

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

San Gabriel Police Department • 625 S. Del Mar Avenue • San Gabriel, CA 91776 • (626) 308-2828 • Issue No. 304

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 for celebration and good cheer, it can also be a time when thieves may strike to make you a victim of scams, auto theft, burglary, or robbery.

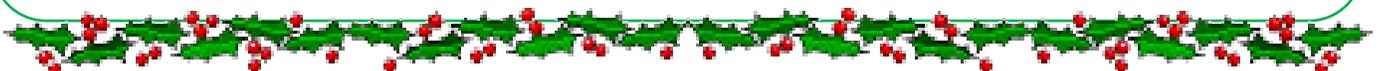
Here are a few helpful reminders that can help prevent you from being a target this holiday season:

- **HIDE GIFTS:** To prevent becoming a victim of burglary, it is recommended that gifts not be placed under the Christmas tree, especially if the curtains are to remain open. Close drapes when leaving the house. If possible, wait until Christmas Eve to place the wrapped gifts under the tree.
- **CAR ALERT:** Park close to the store and under a light. Be aware of people standing or loitering around. **Always lock the car even for short stops**. Place purchases in the car's trunk. Before getting into a car, look under the vehicle and in the back seat for potential assailants.
- **DOLLAR SENSE:** Never flash money, whether in a store or at an automated teller machine. Put a small amount of cash you intend to spend in one pocket and the bulk of your money in another pocket. Pull out just the small wad when making a purchase.
- **BREAK BOXES:** After Christmas, boxes that contained big-ticket items (computers, TV sets, etc.) **should be broken down**, turned inside out and tied up before they are put out with the trash. If possible, place the boxes inside of the trash can. An intact box tells burglars what was opened in a particular home on Christmas Day.
- **CHILD SAFETY:** Children should learn not to give information to people over the phone. They should be taught to lock doors and windows and never let anyone in other than those who have been designated by parents. If a child gets a bike as a gift, he should be taught to lock it. Mark children's valuable new items with a parent's driver's license number.

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) 451-5455.



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





Holiday Safety Tips:

1. You can prevent crime by keeping your car safe from break-ins and thefts:

- Park in well-lit, traveled areas.
- **Keep valuables and gifts out of sight** in the trunk, and do not to leave them in the vehicle for long periods of time.
- Don't leave your keys in the car while it is running.
- Use a steering-wheel lock and/or car alarm to make your vehicle less attractive to thieves.
- **Ensure your doors are locked** (and windows on child-lock) once everyone is inside to avoid unwanted visitors from entering your vehicle.

2. You can prevent crime by keeping your home safe from break-ins:

- Keep any ladders used for putting lights up away from the home so criminals cannot use them to climb up to your windows.
- **Do not display gifts** in a window or doorway.
- Properly dispose of gift packaging and boxes. **Do not leave packages outside** for all to see, as this will advertise the contents of your home to thieves. Put inside garbage bags or take directly to recycling depots.

3. You can prevent crime by securing your home before you go away:

- **Make sure your home looks occupied:** Place lights, radios and TVs on variable timers. Have someone stay inside your home for a while each day if possible.
- Have a trusted neighbor/friend/family member check on your home daily, and collect your mail.
- If you're leaving a vehicle outside your house, have someone move its position periodically, to make it appear as if it is being used.
- Lock-up tools, BBQs and ladders and make sure they are out of sight; set and test your timers; lock and check doors and windows; and leave shades and blinds in normal positions.
- Turn off the telephone ringer so no one knows your home is empty (and don't leave outgoing phone or e-mail messages saying you are away).

4. You can prevent crime by shopping safely:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably and **avoid wearing expensive jewelry**.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- **Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.**
- Pay for purchases with an ATM/Debit card or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- **Beware of strangers** approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

