



Season's Greetings

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

San Gabriel Police Department • 625 S. Del Mar Avenue • San Gabriel, CA 91776 • (626) 308-2828 • Issue No. 293

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) 451-5455.



**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)**





Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

The holidays are here! As you prepare for shopping, travel and time with friends and family, it is also a good time to review some safety and crime prevention tips that can help you avoid becoming a victim of theft and other criminal activity. In addition to the following tips, remember to report suspicious activity to the police.

Shopping

- Be aware of your surroundings. Park in areas that are well-lit.
- Avoid distractions such as talking on the phone or listening to music while walking. Criminals like targeting people who are distracted.
- Minimize the amount of cash you carry. Try to use credit cards or debit cards instead.
- Do not leave personal items such as shopping bags and wallets unattended on tables or in carts. Leaving your wallet on the counter while paying for items is all the time a thief needs.
- Ladies, please try to use purses that have zippers or a clasp on top. Open purses and bags are easier to pick-pocket, especially on crowded shopping days or other large-crowd events.
- Make sure your car is always locked.
- Keep packages and other valuables out of sight. Packages in cars are an invitation for auto burglars. This includes not only gifts, but also cell phones, purses, backpacks and laptop computers. If there is no way to hide your packages, take them home and then return to the store.
- When returning to your car, walk back with a group of people when possible. Have your keys ready to open the door and get in. Lock the doors once in the car.

Preventing Package Theft

- Remove packages from the porch as soon as possible. If you will not be home when the package is delivered, consider using your work address or a trusted friend's address if you know they will be home.
- If a neighbor will be home, ask them to watch for your package and hold it for you.
- Add shipment tracking and track your packages.
- Request a signature delivery option, if available.
- If you do not receive your shipment on time, check with the company of origin and confirm the delivery. If the item was delivered and you did not receive it, report the theft to the original company, the shipping company and your local police department.

Children

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

