



HERCULES POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- Don't leave packages in plain view in your vehicle – put them in your trunk.
- If you will not be home for deliveries, have your items delivered to a neighbor who will be home.
- Hold on to your money: Ladies, ALWAYS carry your purse tucked tightly under your arm. Men, put your wallet in your front pocket OR use a money clip.
- Don't park in secluded or dark areas of the parking lot. Make mental note of where you parked your car. Be aware of your surroundings....check underneath, outside, and inside your car before getting in.
- If you've got too much to carry – use an escort or security to help you to your car.

SHOPPING WITH KIDS



- Teach kids to go to a store clerk or security guard if separated or if there is a problem.
- Keep children under 4 in a stroller or close to you.
- If placing your child in a shopping cart, use the safety belt. About 21,000 kids, 5 and under, are treated in emergency rooms yearly for shopping cart injuries.
- Stay in a group. If not, make a time and place to meet.

#1 HOME SAFETY REMINDER: Approximately 50% of all burglars enter the house via unlocked or open doors and/or windows.

**KEEP ALL DOORS, INCLUDING YOUR GARAGE DOOR,
CLOSED & LOCKED.**

PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT THIS SEASON

- Do not give out any personal information over the phone, through mail, or over the Internet
- Shred all documents
- Minimize identification information you carry
- Cancel all credit cards that you have not used in the last six months.
- Order your credit card report at least twice a year. (Equifax-800.685.1111; Experian-888.397.3742; or TransUnion-800.680.7293)

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America, affecting half a million new victims each year



**For more tips on holiday crime prevention contact the Hercules Police Department at
510.799.8260**