

Crime Prevention Tips for the Holidays from the St. Albert Crime Reduction Unit

The St. Albert Crime Reduction unit would like you to use these safety and prevention tips to make sure the Grinch doesn't put a damper on your holiday celebrations. And don't keep them to yourself, use the information provided here to start conversations with friends and family so you can all enjoy a happy and safe holiday season.

Around the house...

- Always lock your car and residence, even if you are only away for a few moments
- Leave lights turned on both inside and outside your residence after dark. Criminals don't like bright places.
- If you will be away from your home during the holidays, make arrangements for a friend or neighbour to pick up your mail and newspapers. An overflowing mailbox is a sure sign that no one is home and thieves are tempted to check that mailbox for holiday gifts.

Shopping

As you do your holiday shopping, don't give a thief an opportunity

- Do not leave valuables in open view in your car. Put them in the trunk, or take them along with you. This is the time of the year when thieves do their own form of "window shopping". They look in parked cars for gifts and other merchandise, and they will break through car windows to get at such valuables. It takes only a moment for a criminal to break into your car
- Always park in well-lit areas and park close to the entrance of the store or mall

Record your property

- After Christmas, ensure to record your new serial numbers in the event they are stolen in the future.
- If an item doesn't have a serial number, consider engraving your name or initials on the item.

Charities

While it is the season to give back to the less fortunate please ensure that you are doing your research before making your charitable donations

- Take the time to research online before contributing to someone who approaches you
- Be wary of any organization that sends unsolicited e-mails