

Personal Safety Tips for the Holidays

- Always be aware of your surroundings and keep your personal space.
- If someone is approaching you, make direct eye contact with them. This lets them know you are not only aware but could certainly identify them if needed. Eye contact asserts that you are not the victim.
- *Avoid being distracted by your digital devices. Talking on your cell and listening to music on your headphones makes you an easier target.*
- Walk on well-lit streets at all times of the day and don't take shortcuts through alleys or hidden trails.
- If you think you are being followed, switch directions. Duck into a public place and ask for assistance.
- Change your walking routine by planning different routes etc. Don't be predictable.
- Always have your keys in hand when approaching your car or home. Don't fumble through your pockets, bags, etc.
- If you carry a wallet, keep it in the front pocket. If it's in a purse, keep the purse in front of you.
- Don't wear expensive jewelry. If you do, cover them up or keep them hidden until you arrive at your destination.
- Have 911 and other emergency contacts programmed into your phone.
- Let someone you trust know your whereabouts. Use features such as location sharing and alert sending, available on most portable devices, to notify others of your location.
- Do not keep extra key fobs in your car – this may cause your vehicle to resist locking.
- Wear flats when walking outside, running in high or stacked heels may delay escape and cause injury.
- Have packages delivered to a trusted family member or place of employment.
- Keep all belongings that remain in your vehicle stored in the trunk and hidden from view.