



PINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER Winter 2008-09



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

The holiday season is a time for crimes of opportunity. Keep these tips in mind this season:

- 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 or to your office.
- Hold on to your money: Always carry your purse tucked tightly under your arm, ladies. And for you men . . . it can happen to you too! Put your money and only necessary cards in your front pants pocket where it is harder for a bad guy to get at it.
- Don't park in secluded or dark areas of the parking lot. Be patient and courteous while parking.
- Try not to be the last to leave the store. Leave when the stores are still open and there are plenty of other shoppers in the parking lot.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- When you get home, remember this 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 and locked. Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL

- Get an automatic timer for the lights in your home.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and perhaps park a vehicle in your driveway.
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery.

WHEN YOU ARE OUT FOR THE EVENING

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks and sounds like somebody is home.
- Lock doors and windows even if you leave for just a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.



Pinole Police Department Community Preservation and Safety Unit

Did you know that the Community Preservation and Safety Unit now does free home security inspections? Let us help you make your home more secure. Call for an appointment – 724-9838.

Do you have code violations in your neighborhood? Call Tyra Harrington in the Code Enforcement Department to report violations – 724-9834.

Are you interested in participating in our Youth Academy this spring? Call 724-9838.

Would you like regular updates on Crime Prevention topics? Send your email address to: police@ci.pinole.ca.us.

Check your Credit Report at least once a year!



HOME ALONE (AND NOT JUST FOR THE HOLIDAYS)!

Today more single parents and families with two working parents have to leave their children unsupervised, usually at home alone, during some part of the day. What can you do to protect your children and ease your own anxieties when they are by themselves?

Tips for Parents

- Post a list of emergency numbers including family members, trusted friends and neighbors and emergency personnel.
- Make your child knows his/her phone number and address, so they don't panic and forget in an emergency.
- Keep a first aid kit in the house. Teach your child basic first aid.
- Make sure there are working smoke detectors on every floor of the house and teach your children what to do in case of fire, including practicing an evacuation route.
- Keep a flashlight and batteries in an easily accessible place in case of a power outage.
- Make sure your child has a way to contact you when you are away, including a work number and a cell phone. Check your messages often and return your child's calls.
- Have food available that can be heated in the microwave or eaten cold.
- Don't allow your children to have company.

Tips for Children

- Never let anyone into the house. Do not open the door to strangers.
- Use caller ID or an answering machine to screen calls. When answering the phone, never tell callers you are home alone. Tell them your mom/dad is busy and will call them back.
- Keep all doors and windows locked.
- If coming home to an empty house – never enter the house if there are open or broken windows or doors, or other signs of forced entry. Leave and get help from a neighbor or call the police.
- Tell your parents of any fears or concerns.

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Community Preservation and Safety Unit, Pinole Police Department
880 Tennent Avenue, Pinole 94564
510-724-8950

Paul M. Clancy, Chief of Police
Will Palmini, Community Preservation Sergeant, Chris Fodor, Crime Prevention Officer
Tom Madigan, Al Chavarria, Pat Pava - Community Safety Specialists
Doug Hearn – Code Enforcement Officer

Happy Holidays from our Staff – Be Safe!