

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is here. It is a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We must always be careful, and aware of our surroundings. Please feel free to share this information with family, friends and neighbors. Below are a few tips. For more tips, contact the Campus Police and Security (404-225-4730).

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings, wherever you are.
- Don't be taken by surprise. Be aware and be prepared.
- Stand tall and walk confidently. Don't show fear. Don't look like a victim.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave right away and get help if necessary

SHOPPING SAFETY

- Look for persons lingering in the parking lot.
- If approached while parking, leave and find another parking space even if it is a great spot.
- Make sure you have everything together before exiting your vehicle.
- Lock your vehicle immediately after exiting.
- Take a photo with your phone showing the direction and entrance you are going and a photo of the direction back to your vehicle from that entrance. This will help you find your vehicle if you forget where you park.
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. This will allow you to run if necessary.
- Make several trips to your vehicle to keep your hands free and your view unobstructed.
- Place items in the trunk of your vehicle for the greatest security.

RETURNING TO YOUR VEHICLE

- Know your vehicle location before you leave. Look at the photos taken earlier if you don't remember.
- Have your keys in your hand before you go to your vehicle.
- Unless it is the last result, do not use your key fob to find your vehicle. This also alerts the criminal the location of their next victim. **If you must use the key fob, use the panic or alarm button. Never use the unlock until you are entering your vehicle.**
- Once you locate your vehicle, walk by it so you can make sure no one is hiding or waiting for you.
- Make sure you check your back seat before entering your vehicle.
- Lock your door as soon as you are inside. **(Before you put on your seatbelt or start your engine.)**
- Once inside, don't open it for anyone you don't know. Some criminals use an emergency as an excuse to get you to open your vehicle. Tell them you are calling 911 for them, leave and alert the proper authorities.



AVOIDING FRAUD & SCAMS

- Con-artists are not always easy to spot. Smart, extremely persuasive, and aggressive, they invade your home through the telephone and the mail, advertise in reputable newspapers and magazines, and come to your door. Most people think they're too smart to fall for a scam. But con artists rob all kinds of people from investment counselors and doctors to teenagers and elderly widows of billions every year. It's up to you to say no. Use common sense and learn about old and new scams.