



# HOLIDAY SAFETY

# The holidays have arrived. RCPD wants to offer its residents tips to help keep you, your home and your vehicle secure, and how you can report criminal activity.



## PROTECT YOUR PACKAGES

**Sign up for email or text notifications,** so you know when your package is delivered.

**Require a signature** upon delivery.

**Have your package delivered** to the post office, UPS, Amazon Locker or your office.



## WHEN DRIVING

**Park in a well-lit space.** Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.

**Park as close as you can to your destination** and take notice of where you parked.

**Keep car doors locked and windows closed** while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.

**Never leave your car unoccupied** with the motor running or with children inside.

**Hide shopping bags and gifts** in the trunk of your vehicle.

**Locate your keys** prior to going to your car.

**Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels.** Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.

**Do not approach your car alone** if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.



## WHEN SHOPPING

**Shop during daylight hours.** If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.

**If you carry a purse, hold it securely** between your arm and your body. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.

**Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.** Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.

**Dress casually and comfortably.** Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.

**Notify your credit card issuer immediately** if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused. Keep a record of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.

**Avoid overloading yourself with packages.** It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

**Be alert to your surroundings** and the people around you, especially if you are alone or it is dark. At this time of year, "con artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

**Shopping with children?** Teach children to stay close to you at all times. Teach children to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your children are separated from you. Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security.



## USING AN ATM

**Choose an ATM located inside a police station, mall or well-lit location.** Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.

**Protect your PIN** by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.

**Do not throw your ATM receipt away** at the ATM location.



## AT HOME

**Practice diligence.** Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts or solicit donations door-to-door for charitable causes when no charity is involved. Ask for ID and find out how donated funds will be used.

**Always lock your doors and windows,** even when leaving for “just a minute.”

**Leave lights on** when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.

**Ensure holiday gifts are not visible** through the windows and doors of your home.

**Make sure doors and passageways are clear** inside your home when setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display.

**Mount your Christmas tree on a sturdy base** so children, elderly persons or pets cannot pull it over on themselves.

**Ensure the wiring for holiday lights is not damaged or frayed** to help prevent a fire.

**Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand** to keep it green.

**Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.**

**Going on vacation?** Sign up for a vacation home check by our Volunteers in Partnership with the Sheriff (VIPS) by calling 916.875.9600 or filling out the form at [RanchoCordovaPD.com](http://RanchoCordovaPD.com).

## HOW TO REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- To report a **crime in progress or suspicious activity, call 911.**
- To report a **crime after the fact,** please call our non-emergency number at **916.362.5115** and request an officer. An officer can then be dispatched to your location to file a report.
- Visit **[RanchoCordovaPD.com](http://RanchoCordovaPD.com)** for additional ways you can report any and all criminal activity.



**RANCHO CORDOVA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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