



INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations Office ~ 50 N. Alabama Street ~ Indianapolis IN, 46204
Telephone: (317) 327-3424 ~ Fax: (317) 327-3152

News Release:

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Media Contact:

Sgt. Kendale Adams, 317.775.1539

For Immediate Release

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Announces 2015 Holiday Shopping Patrol Activity and Shopper Safety Information

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) will take proactive measures to ensure a safe holiday season. To supplement our existing patrols, the police department is taking extra steps to protect our citizens and visitors of our retail businesses. Citizens and shoppers will notice an increased uniform presence in the retail areas this holiday season. Officers in marked vehicles, on mountain bikes (dependent on weather conditions), and on foot, to name a few, will be conducting high visibility patrols during the peak shopping hours occurring during the day and evening. The deployment strategy is based on the areas that experience higher pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to the shopping season. This increase will be in addition to the regular staffing of the police department.

“It is our hope that our increased presence will bring comfort to shoppers and proprietors while providing a strong deterrent to criminal activity.” said Chief Rick Hite. “If you see suspicious activity this holiday season, please be sure to report it.”

The following safety tips are intended to help protect you from theft, fraud or other criminal activity. IMPD is intensifying our patrol activity in our shopping areas during the holiday season, and your observance of these tips can help prevent you from becoming the victim of crime.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Mission Statement

We are dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards while serving the community in which we work and live. We are committed to the enforcement of laws and to protect life and property, while also respecting individual rights, human dignity and community values. We are committed to creating and maintaining active police/community partnerships and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Follow us on Twitter at [@IMPD_News](#) or Facebook at [IMPD Media Relations](#)



INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations Office ~ 50 N. Alabama Street ~ Indianapolis IN, 46204
Telephone: (317) 327-3424 ~ Fax: (317) 327-3152

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS:

Package deliveries will multiply as holiday gifts are ordered, shipped to loved ones, and received from generous friends and family. Unfortunately, thieves are out there stealing packages from porches before residents return home from work or from being out and about. IMPD would like to offer these tips to help avoid package theft:

- Request a signature confirmation of delivery. By doing this, the deliverer will have to wait until you're available or else deliver the package to an at-home neighbor.
- Insure valuable items.
- Encourage trustworthy neighbors to watch for deliveries and agree to secure each other's packages. This includes being watchful for any stranger who is going onto porches or following delivery trucks.
- If you have an understanding boss, have your packages delivered to you at work.
- Track packages online to see exactly when they are en route to your house. Take advantage of couriers' text notification service letting you know when a package has been delivered.
- Provide special instructions for where to place the delivered packages. A good place might be on the side or back of the house so that the package is out of sight from the road.

Holiday Shopping means increasing amounts of shopping bags and boxes to cart around. Many people will take these to their vehicles and then go back into the store to continue shopping. Know that there are thieves watching this and then taking the unattended items from vehicles. They might also try to steal it from the person while on the way to the vehicle. Stressful holiday shopping can cause people who are normally cautious to become careless. Here are some tips to prevent vehicle burglary and strong-arm robbery:

- Do not place parcels in plain sight inside the vehicle. Lock them in the trunk or cover them with a blanket or rear cover if in an SUV or van.
- Do not leave vehicles unlocked. Some thieves will break a window to get it, but if the door is unlocked it is much easier for them to get inside.
- Park in well-lit and highly visible areas.
- Make eye contact with every person in the parking lot on your way to the vehicle. Because the potential thief does not want to be seen, this makes you a less desirable target.
- Have the keys to your vehicle in hand before walking out of the store. This will prevent you from having your attention diverted digging around for keys.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Mission Statement

We are dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards while serving the community in which we work and live. We are committed to the enforcement of laws and to protect life and property, while also respecting individual rights, human dignity and community values. We are committed to creating and maintaining active police/community partnerships and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Follow us on Twitter at [@IMPD_News](#) or Facebook at [IMPD Media Relations](#)



INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations Office ~ 50 N. Alabama Street ~ Indianapolis IN, 46204
Telephone: (317) 327-3424 ~ Fax: (317) 327-3152

- Stay off your phone while walking. The call or text is telling someone that you got the perfect gift can wait until you are safely inside of your vehicle. Talking or texting while walking diverts your attention and makes you a more accessible target.
- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If shopping at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If you are paying with cash, keep it separated in small amounts instead of a large wad that is easily seen when purchasing items. "Don't flash your cash."
- Keep purses and wallets under your control. Do not leave a purse in the basket unzipped for all to see what is inside. If you can avoid carrying a purse or wallet, then do so.

Holiday travel will increase due to family members living away from each other. Social media is an excellent way to share with others that we are with our families and having a great time. However, this also lets thieves know when you are not home, and you can potentially be a target for a home burglary. Here are some tips to prevent home burglary:

- Do not post on social media about being out of town or away from home. If you want to share your visit, wait until you return home. They will all still know, but the post will read: "we had a great time with our family and are happy to be HOME now."
- Find a close friend, relative, or trustworthy neighbor to keep an eye on your property while you're gone. This includes taking out the trash on trash day, feeding your animals, and picking up your mail and newspapers. Undone, these are all clear signs that no one is home. Keep in mind gift cards that come in the mail are easy shopping for a thief.
- If you have an alarm-monitored home, make sure the contact list is updated. If the alarm is activated and the house needs securing, this is the best way to aid the police in locating a responsible person to secure the home.
- Set your alarm if you have one, even during the daytime or if you are going to be out of the house for only a short period. Theft happens during all hours.
- If you have a garage door with an automatic opener, disable the emergency release and lock the garage door. The emergency release is an easy way to gain access into your garage.
- Lock all of your doors and windows properly. An unlocked entry is easily accessible.
- Do not leave gifts under the Christmas tree when away from home for an extended period. This makes for an easy way for a thief to grab up everything.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Mission Statement

We are dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards while serving the community in which we work and live. We are committed to the enforcement of laws and to protect life and property, while also respecting individual rights, human dignity and community values. We are committed to creating and maintaining active police/community partnerships and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Follow us on Twitter at [@IMPD_News](#) or Facebook at [IMPD Media Relations](#)



INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Media Relations Office ~ 50 N. Alabama Street ~ Indianapolis IN, 46204
Telephone: (317) 327-3424 ~ Fax: (317) 327-3152

Holiday trash occurs in great numbers due to the boxes that the gifts are in. Placing boxes outside creates a shopping list for a thief by simply driving by and seeing what you have inside based on the box left outside. Here are some additional tips to prevent home burglary:

- Break down all boxes and keep them in the garage or back yard until ready for trash day. This is an extra step but makes the massive amount of boxes manageable. Plus, it makes it harder to distinguish items in the trash pile.
- If the boxes will not fit in your recycle bin or if you do not have a garage, load them into your vehicle and take them to a nearby drop-off location with large receptacles for recycling.

Holiday weather brings with it the desire to warm up vehicles during cold temperatures. Leaving a running car in front of your home with the keys in the ignition makes it very easy for a thief to drive off in your toasty warm vehicle. Here are some tips to prevent vehicle theft:

- Have a spare key to the vehicle so that you can lock it if going inside to stay warm while your vehicle warms up. This can also be done with a key fob for automatic locks. A remote start is also useful but sometimes will not work in extremely cold temperatures.
- Bundle up and stay in your car while it is warming up. Turn off the heater fan so there is no cold air blowing.
- DO NOT leave a vehicle running inside the garage with the garage door shut. The exhaust fumes from the vehicle are far more dangerous than being chilly while waiting for a vehicle to warm up.
- Do not leave a vehicle unattended or unlocked even if it is just for a minute. It takes less than one minute to steal a car and all of the contents in it. Plus it provides an easy getaway for a thief.

###

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Mission Statement

We are dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards while serving the community in which we work and live. We are committed to the enforcement of laws and to protect life and property, while also respecting individual rights, human dignity and community values. We are committed to creating and maintaining active police/community partnerships and assisting citizens in identifying and solving problems to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Follow us on Twitter at [@IMPD_News](#) or Facebook at [IMPD Media Relations](#)