



CRIME PREVENTION TIP SHEET



Holiday Safety 2007

Is it too early to talk about Holiday Safety? I think not! The Aventura Police Department is already planning for the holiday traffic and the increase in crime. There are people out there planning their Holiday Season very much like you are, but their plans involve taking money or property from you during the Holidays.

Telemarketers are revving up to take advantage of your goodwill and the purse thieves are looking forward to full purses and wallets. Infomercials will take on a more urgent tone and everyone will offer you an incredible deal if you act today. Sometimes the victim's motive is greed, they are convinced that the con is real and they can make money. If it's too good to be true it probably is. Sometimes the victim is not informed about the scams and fall victim inadvertently. Whatever the reason, crime will be here.

Protect yourself by hanging up the phone, being mindful of where you are at and what you are doing. Do not carry large amounts of cash or numerous credit cards to lose. Take the following precautions when shopping:

- Leave a radio playing at home. This makes the home appear occupied.
- Shop with a friend - This makes you a less likely victim.
- Place all large purchases in the trunk and go directly home with expensive items.
- If you have to go to the bank for money, be alert to people in the parking lot and standing near the ATM. Keep in mind that an ATM with no line is not always a good location for your transaction.
- If you have car trouble call AAA, do not accept help from friendly strangers. They may be the one who flattened your tire to begin with.
- If you see someone or something suspicious report it immediately. The call you make may save someone from becoming a victim. Keep in mind that you live here and know what's normal.
- Stay alert and awake behind the wheel. It is the distracted driver that has the accident.

When travelling during the holidays, take time out to plan your trip and drive defensively. There are careless people who will cut you off and generally try to ruin your day. One last tip: The holidays are a busy time and it's easy to miss our normal routine. If you have a medical problem which requires treatments on a schedule, keep to that routine. Eat on time, take your medications on time and get plenty of rest. We want you to enjoy this holiday season and be around for next year.

Have a wonderful holiday and help take a bite out of crime,

Ernie Long

Crime Prevention Officer