



From now through the new year, the winter holidays are a time for joy, family, fun, spiritual contemplation, and observance of some of our highest religious holidays. However, it's also important to be aware of some potential threats that can occur during this busy time. By taking some simple precautions, everyone can remain safe and enjoy the season.

Fraud:

- Be wary of unsolicited calls, emails, and text messages: Don't click links or attachments from unknown senders. If you receive a suspicious message, contact the sender's organization directly to verify its legitimacy.
- Be careful when shopping online: Only order from websites you know and trust. Use a credit card or a secure payment service when making online purchases.

Theft:

- Keep personal items close: Keep valuables like your purse, wallet, and cellphone close to your person to reduce the likelihood of theft and pickpocketing.
- Observe your surroundings: Thieves may watch you put valuable items into your car and break in when you leave.
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight: When parking your car, don't leave your purse, wallet, shopping bags, or other valuables in plain sight. Put them in the trunk or under a seat.
- Lock your doors and windows: Make sure your home and car are secure, even when you're just going out for a short time.

