

## **Holiday Safety Tips**

### **Holiday Shopping Tips**

- 1)** Do not leave purchases or personal items visible in your car. Thieves will break windows to retrieve things they perceive to have value.
- 2)** If you choose to shop late in the evening to avoid crowds, be sure to park in well-lit areas and consider bringing a shopping buddy instead of going alone.
- 3)** Keep track of your credit card spending, paying special attention to any charges for purchases you don't remember making.
- 4)** When returning to your car, make sure you travel directly to your vehicle with keys in hand. That way you can be ready to enter your car immediately upon reaching it, instead of juggling bags while searching for your keys.

### **Home Safety Tips**

- 1)** If you have an alarm system, it should be activated whenever leaving the home, even for short periods of time.
- 2)** Timers should be used to turn on lights and televisions in your home to give the appearance of activity throughout the day.
- 3)** Televisions, computers, stereos and other valuables should be marked with an identifying number that is unique to its owner. A California driver's license or ID number works well for this. Do not put your social security on items. If you cannot engrave the items, take photographs and store them in a secure location.
- 4)** A list of valuable items should be made with descriptions of the items and serial numbers recorded. This list should be kept outside of the home either in hard copy or a digital format saved to a remote hard drive or reputable internet data storage site.
- 5)** Mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up should be made when you are away from home for a period of time.
- 6)** Lomita Station offers vacation check services. Volunteers will periodically patrol the neighborhood and check on your residence. Call (310) 539-1661 and ask for a vacation check.
- 7)** During the holidays, criminals will sometimes solicit donations for organizations that do not exist. If someone asks for a donation, ask for identification and ask for information about the charity that the individual says they represent. If you do not feel comfortable, do not provide that person with money or any of your personal information.