



Gloucestershire Constabulary
People First Policing

Press Release

CHRISTMAS CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE

December 9 2011

Police are encouraging people to take steps to protect themselves and their property over the festive season.

Christmas is traditionally a time when shopping centres are full, parties are taking place and valuable presents are being stockpiled for distribution to friends and family.

“Most of us love Christmas. It’s a great chance to let our hair down and relax with our loved ones,” said County Crime Reduction Officer Paul Francis.

“Unfortunately, no one loves Christmas more than the criminal, who can often find opportunity to profit from the misery of others.

“We don’t need to make the lives of criminals easier though – we just need to follow a few simple precautions to safeguard our property and ourselves.”

Crime prevention tips for this time of year are:

Personal safety

- Stay in groups, making sure everyone in the group is accounted for and never leaving friends behind.
- Plan transport home – pre-booking licensed taxis when appropriate - and never drink and drive.
- Remember alcohol can affect actions and reactions. Be careful and never leave drinks unattended.
- When walking always be aware of surroundings, keeping to well lit and busy routes.

Christmas shopping

While doing Christmas shopping remember:

- Don't leave your purchases on display in the car.
- Lock your car while making trips into the house with your purchases.
- Make life difficult for pickpockets by carrying your wallet or purse in an inside pocket, or, if it is in a handbag, ensure the bag is fastened or zipped up.
- Ensure your money and credit cards are spread about your person and never leave a bag unattended while looking for a particular item.
- Try and pay for items with debit cards rather than carrying large amounts of cash. You may also get insurance cover when buying items on credit cards should the items be stolen.

Business/Home security

- Don't leave presents on display underneath the Christmas tree when the curtains are open.
- Don't leave empty boxes outside for the refuse collectors. The boxes will let people know you have a new television, computer etc.
- When delivering Christmas cards by hand make sure they are pushed completely through the letter box.
- Anyone going away for Christmas should remember to cancel the milk and newspapers and try and arrange for a friend or neighbour to visit your home regularly and collect the post. They can also turn lights on a draw curtains for you. If not use timer switches to bring lights on at dusk.
- Businesses closing for the Christmas holiday should ensure that their list of keyholders is up to date so that police can contact them easily if their alarm is activated. They should also ensure their security systems are in order and that regular visits are made to the premises over the holiday period.

ENDS

Note to editors: This press release was issued by Kate Nemes, Media Manager, Gloucestershire Constabulary. (01452) 754302.