



# Salt Lake City Police Department



# HOLIDAY SAFETY

**SALT LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Emergency 911  
Dispatch (801) 799-3000

315 East 200 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

## AT HOME

- Lock your doors and windows if you are going out, no matter how short of a period of time you will be gone.
- Keep gifts away from areas, such as windows, where they can be seen by outside travelers.
- Use a peep-hole when someone comes to your door. Never let anyone into your home that you do not know.
- When returning to your home from an outing, do not go in if there are signs that someone has forced entry while you were away. Go to a neighbors house and call the police immediately.

## TRAVELING

- Take precautions to prevent your home from looking vacant:
  - Have your mail or newspaper service stopped.
  - Have your neighbors shovel your walk.
  - Get an electric timer for your lights.
  - Call the police department and ask for vacation patrol checks. This will alert them that there should not be activity at your home while you are gone.
- If you are traveling in a car, know our route of travel; check the road conditions before you leave.
- Stay alert and aware of your surroundings no matter where you are.

## OUT AND ABOUT

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or other valuables.
- Do not leave packages unattended in your car unless they are locked in the trunk.
- When carrying a purse, hold it close to your body. Always carry a wallet in an inside coat or from pant pocket, never a back pant pocket. Do not over burden yourself with packages.
- Stay in well-lit areas and on heavily traveled streets. Avoid routes that take you through parking lots, alleys, or other dark vacant areas.
- When going shopping, try to go with family or friends, there is safety in numbers.
- If shopping with your children, make sure that they know who to go to in case they get lost in a store, the mall, or on the street: a store clerk, security guard, or police officer.
- Always trust your instincts. If people or locations are making you uneasy, leave or stay away.
- Use a debit or credit card instead of cash if possible—it is easier to carry and replace if lost or stolen.
- Use ATM's during the day if possible. Be ready with card in hand as you approach the machine, do not linger longer than necessary. Do not approach at ATM if you are uneasy of the surroundings.

## DECORATING

- When stringing lights, make sure that the cords are in good working condition—no wears or frays.
- Do not overload outlets; it is a good practice to stick to three sets of lights per extension cord.
- Make sure to test lights before hanging and unplug before doing maintenance on them.
- Keep candles in sturdy, non-combustible containers away from flammable objects.
- Keep burning candles out of children's reach.
- Make sure that wax drips from candles are contained and do not fall on flammable objects.
- Clean fireplaces annually. Open the damper or flu before lighting a fireplace, and make sure that a screen or door is securely in place while the first is burning.
- Make sure to extinguish candles and fireplaces and unplug lights before leaving or going to bed.

## DONATING

- Donating to charities is popular during the holidays, before donating make sure that you know about the charity.
- Do not donate to a charity you are not familiar with. If solicited by an organization, ask for literature on them before you decide to donate.
- If solicited by an individual, offer food or other non-monetary donations.