



# SHERIFF

## TERREBONNE PARISH

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Sheriff



December 2017

Community Watch Newsletter



### Safety tips from the Sheriff!

#### Happy Holidays

I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous holiday season. Remember to turn off the lights on your Christmas trees when you leave your residence in prevention of residential fires especially real trees that are very flammable. During these economic times it is important you are locking up your belongings criminals tend to steal during the holiday season for financial gain. Please be cautious in parking lots due to the heavy volume of shoppers and traffic during the holidays to avoid accidents and always be courteous in shopping centers and malls by not parking in handicap parking places making those spaces available to the ones that need it. Don't hesitate to report any suspicious activity to Law Enforcement.

#### Protecting yourself from being a victim

- Hang on to your purses, wallets and cell phones. Setting them down or leaving them unattended provides crimes of opportunity.
- Lock your car doors when travelling.
- Lock your residence.
- Put away unattended items around the house such as bicycles, lawnmowers any item that can be taken relatively easy.
- If you leave your residence for the holidays have someone keep an eye on your residence and check your mail and pick up news papers.
- Check the lighting around your residence.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.



#### Firearm Safety

- Always lock up your firearms in a safe or use a cable lock.
- Keep all firearms out of reach of children.
- Record the makes and models along with serial numbers of all your firearms in the event they are stolen.
- Report any lost or stolen firearms.
- Do not leave firearms in unlocked vehicles.

#### Reminder!

*If you use pepper spray for protection, check your canister to make sure it is not expired!!*



1-800-743-7433

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TEXT "GIVEATIP" PLUS YOUR MESSAGE TO 274637 (CRIMES)





# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

## Traveling



- Check behind vehicles before moving
- Maintain a safe distance between vehicles
- Make sure your vehicle is in good repair
- Reduce speed, especially during inclement weather
- If you drink, don't drive
- Always use safety belts and child safety seats
- Plan your trip – Give yourself plenty of time and schedule rest stops and activities for small children
- Leave an itinerary with a friend so that someone will know where you are
- Keep your cell phone charged
- Don't overload your vehicle or obstruct your view with luggage and/or packages
- Avoid eating heavy meals right before driving, as this can lead to sleepiness
- Get a good night's sleep before traveling



## The 12 Days of Safety



- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Day 1</b> <b>What's that noise?</b> Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.</p>                              | <p><b>Day 5</b> <b>Ouch!</b> Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.</p>                                     | <p><b>Day 9</b> <b>Nice and warm.</b> Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.</p>        |
| <p><b>Day 2</b> <b>What a shocker!</b> Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.</p>  | <p><b>Day 6</b> <b>Kids eat the darndest things!</b> Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.</p> | <p><b>Day 10</b> <b>Can't touch this!</b> Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.</p> |
| <p><b>Day 3</b> <b>Two's company, three's a crowd.</b> Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.</p>  | <p><b>Day 7</b> <b>Thirsty?</b> Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.</p>                           | <p><b>Day 11</b> <b>Escape Route:</b> Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.</p>   |
| <p><b>Day 4</b> <b>Is it working?</b> Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.</p> | <p><b>Day 8</b> <b>Make a wish!</b> Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.</p>  | <p><b>Day 12</b> <b>Hot stuff!</b> Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.</p>                |



# Holiday Shopping Safety



Avoid shopping by yourself. Invite a friend or family member; there is safety in numbers. Try to park in a well-lit, well-trafficked area of the parking lot at stores and malls. Avoid secluded and dark areas and always be alert and aware of your surroundings and any potential danger signs. This lessens the criminal's "window of opportunity."

When using an ATM, take someone you know along with you and make sure you look around for any suspicious activity. Carry only the amount of cash you need and no more. Whenever possible pay for purchases with checks, credit, charge or debit cards.

Don't buy more than you can safely carry. If you do return to your vehicle to unload packages, place them in the trunk or make sure they're not in plain view. When returning to your car, make sure to keep your car key in your hand, ready to open your door.

Crime can be prevented when people are willing to step forward and get involved. By reporting crime and practicing these safety tips, you'll remove their opportunity to ruin our fun. Keep safe and enjoy the holidays!

## Pet Holiday Safety Tips



**1 Indulgent human holiday foods can cause GI upset or toxic poisoning in pets.**

Avoid chocolate, candies made with artificial sweeteners, meat bones, and alcohol.

**3 Holiday Plants Can Be Poisonous!**

Poinsettias, mistletoe, holly, and pine needles are mildly toxic and may cause GI upset. Lilies are extremely poisonous to cats.

**5 Shiny Objects Are a No-No!**

Ribbons, tinsel, and strings are fun to play with, but can cause severe intestinal blockages if swallowed.

**2 Create a quiet, calming safe room for your pet to retreat to during holiday hubbub.**

This will also keep pets away from doors with guests coming and going.

**4 Conceal Electrical Cords**

Some animals are curious and will chew on electrical cords. Chewing the cords can cause mouth burns, shock, or electrocution.

# ENJOY A **SAFE** HOLIDAY SEASON

## PICK-POCKETS & IDENTITY THEFT

- Bring Only the Cash & Credit Cards You Need
- Do Not Carry Your Social Security Card or Passport
- Don't Let Others Distract You in Crowded Areas. Your Personal Belongings are at Risk.
- Limit the Use of Your Cell Phone in Public



## HOME BURGLARY PREVENTION

- If You are Traveling Ask a Neighbor to Watch the House
- Put Timers on Different Lights Throughout the Interior and Exterior of the House
- Have Newspapers, Mail and Deliveries Held or Picked Up by Someone You Trust

## PERSONAL SAFETY



- Park in Well-Lighted & Well Traveled Areas
- Avoid Overloading Yourself with Packages
- Be Aware of Your Surroundings



## AUTO BREAK-INS

- Leave Nothing Visible in the Car
- Keep Doors & Trunk of Vehicles Locked
- Keep Packages in the Trunk while Shopping
- Never Leave a GPS System or Mount Visible



## CREDIT CARDS

- Shop Only at Secure Websites
- Do Not Respond to Emails Asking You for Personal or Credit Card Information
- Check Your Credit Card & Bank Statements Regularly for Fraudulent Use

## *Upcoming Events*

Upcoming Event	Date
Movie "Polar Express"	December 1 <sup>st</sup> 6pm-9:30PM Down Town Court Yard
Christmas Festival and Parade	December 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5pm from stadium drive to Town Hall Court yard
Reindeer Run	12:30pm-4pm Southdown Plantation
Toys For Tots toy drive	December 9th Toy Drive 8am-4pm in front of Walmart on Martin Luther King Blvd.

Go to [www.tpcg.org](http://www.tpcg.org) for more scheduled calendar events.