



NORTH BAY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holiday season once again upon us, the North Bay Village Police Department would like to remind everyone to make a conscious effort to take basic and appropriate personal safety precautions. The following are some recommended tips that can be used to ensure that everyone has a safe and happy holiday:

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Carry **only your** credit cards, debit cards, checks and driver's licenses. If you carry a purse **do not** wrap it around your arms or shoulders, you could risk injury from a would-be assailant.
- Do not carry wallets in back pockets.
- Park in well lighted areas so you can see your vehicle from as far away as possible. Always lock all doors whether you are in or out of your car. Be mindful of where you park your car to avoid hesitation when returning.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers. Be alert of your surroundings and the people near you.
- When possible, place all shopping bags in a plain non-descript bag; shopping bags from "High End" stores with names or Logos are advertisements for thieves looking to steal "High End" merchandise.
- Avoid going back and forth to your vehicle and leaving shopping bags/property in the car unattended.
- Have keys readily available when returning to your car. Ask security personnel to escort you to your car if you are uncomfortable walking alone.
- Glance in the back seat and under your vehicle before getting in.
- If you think you are being followed, **DO NOT** go home; drive to the nearest police or fire station, or well lighted place where there are people.
- Call the police if you observe anything suspicious or feel threatened.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL AND AT HOME

- Get an automatic timer(s) for your lights; give the appearance that your home is occupied.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, collect mail and newspapers or have the deliveries stopped.
- Have a neighbor park their car in your driveway.
- **Do not** leave keys hidden on your property; leave it with someone you trust and will know how to get in contact with you.
- Make an inventory of the valuables you are taking.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL AND AT HOME cont.

- Request a watch order with the police department.

- Make a copy of your itinerary, plane tickets, passports, credit cards, and travelers' checks you are taking with you. Leave copies of these items with someone back home and your hotel room for easy access in case items are stolen.
- Keep the outside of your home well lighted with doors locked and curtains closed.
- After the holidays, **do not** advertise gifts received by the boxes left for garbage collection intact. Destroy boxes and place them in recycling containers.
- Retrieve packages delivered to and left outside of our home as soon as possible.
- Make sure to activate your alarm, if you have one, when you leave your residence

CELEBRATIONS

- **Do Not** drink and drive.
- **Do Not** text and drive.
- If boating, remember to wear your life jackets if drinking is involved.
 - Accidents on boats are more deadly than on land.
 - Have your cell phone in case something goes wrong.
- Partying at home make sure to keep an eye on the little ones if drinking is involved.
- If using fireworks; have a bucket of water nearby in case something goes wrong.
 - Remember pets fear loud noises and may react differently.
- **NO FIRING GUNS**; remember "what goes up, must come down".
- Remain in the company of trusted friends and family.
- Do not do anything that will make you vulnerable to victimization.

ONLINE SHOPPING SAFETY

- Shop on Secure Websites: Ensure the website URL starts with https:// and look for a padlock icon in the address bar before entering any personal information.
- Use Strong Passwords: Create unique and complex passwords for your shopping accounts. Consider using a password manager to keep track of them securely.
- Enable Two-Factor Authentication: Add an extra layer of security to your online accounts by enabling 2FA where available.
- Beware of Phishing Scams: Be cautious of unsolicited emails or messages claiming to offer Black Friday deals. Verify the sender's authenticity before clicking on any links or providing information.

FRAUD TIPS

- Monitor Your Accounts: Regularly check your bank and credit card statements for any unauthorized transactions, especially after major shopping events
- Do not provide personal information to anyone that is unknown to you (in person or via phone)
- Shred discarded documents with any personal information
- Make sure all computer anti-virus and security software and malware protections are up to date. Use reputable anti-virus software and firewalls.
- Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls and end all communication with the caller immediately.

The North Bay Village Police Department through their continuing effort to provide the safest environment possible will have increased Police presence throughout the Holiday Season.

The North Bay Village Police Department would like to wish our Residents, Businesses and Visitors a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season!