

'Tis The Season for Safety
Community Resource Officer Suzanne Glass
Hutto Police Department

The holiday season is upon us and I'm sure we all agree it snuck up! As always, safety is our top priority, so we've put together a few holiday safety tips.

Shopping Safety:

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and remain vigilant. You never know when the Grinch will pop up!
- Avoid shopping by yourself. It's much more fun to shop with friends anyway.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. We work too hard for our money for it to be lost or stolen!
- Avoid carrying a purse. It's easy for a thief to snatch your purse right out of your hands or off of your shoulder. Be honest, you don't want anyone viewing the chaos inside your purse!
- Carry pepper spray in the ready position when walking to and from your vehicle. if you must deploy the pepper spray, do not let it get in your eyes. It hurts (we speak from experience).
- Remove packages or items of value from view in vehicles. This makes you an easy target for a crime of opportunity. Take away that opportunity.

Package deliveries:

To avoid theft of packages we recommend:

- Have packages delivered to your place of business (if you have a boss that's cool with that).
- Have the package delivered to a trusted family member or neighbor who is home during daytime hours, but make sure they don't open it. It might be for them!
- Have the package delivered with a signature required. Handing the package off to a person is always best.
- Have the package delivered to the nearest store for in-store pickup. It may be inconvenient, but it's worth it.
- Leave instructions to have the package delivered and placed out of sight, such as the back porch. Be sure Spot is inside the house, you don't want Hutto Animal Control showing up on a dog bite call.
- Have camera's installed. This will give our awesome Officers a solid lead on the suspect(s) if a package is stolen.

Keeping your home safe while you're away:

- Ask a trusted friend or family member to check on your home while you're away. Instruct your friend to go in, walk around and make sure everything is in its place.

- Don't let the criminals know you're going to be away because your Facebook (Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc...) post says so!
- Leave your curtains the way you usually would.
- Purchase a timer or two for lights in your home. This makes it appear that someone is home when lights are going on and off.
- Let the post office know you'll be out and have delivery stopped until you return.
- Hutto Police Department has a "close patrol" program. A resident can request a security check be made of their property. If any unknown person is found on the property, they may be detained and interviewed by a police officer. This is not a contract to guard your home; rather a request of the Hutto Police Department to physically and randomly check your property. In the event something happens on your property, a completed form on file will allow the Police Department to contact you quickly and efficiently. To sign up, please call our non-emergency number at (512) 759-5978.

In all seriousness, folks - this is one of the busiest times of year in terms of traffic, and a lot can happen while on the road. Protect yourselves as much as you can and stay alert. We've pulled up some information provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Traveling Safely

Thanksgiving weekend, millions will hit the roads, eager to spend time with family and friends. It's one of the busiest travel times of the year, and unfortunately more people on the roadways means the potential for more vehicle crashes.

During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2014 (6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, to 5:59 a.m. on Monday, December 1), 341 passenger vehicle occupants were killed in traffic crashes across the nation. Tragically, 50% of those killed were not buckled up at the time of their fatal crash.

This information is not intended to scare you, but for you to be aware. We LOVE our community and want EVERYONE back safe and sound when the holidays are over! Please take a look:



The Hutto Police Department would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency (512) 759-5978

