

**C.W. Post Campus
Department of Public Safety**

Holiday Safety Tips

While Shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of everything around you. Take a minute to observe who may be watching you
- Be cautious of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. Ask for identification, how the donated funds will be used, etc.
- Park in a highly visible well-lighted space. It may be daylight when you arrive at the Mall, but when you come out at 5 or 6 P.M. it will be dark
- Lock your vehicle both when driving and parked
- Carry your purse close to you body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket
- Have your car keys in your hand and be ready to open the car door immediately
- Place all shopping bags, packages and gifts out of sight (trunk, under seat).
- Always know where you have parked your car, so you do not spend unnecessary time walking around the parking lot
- Look inside and under your car before entering
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash – use debit card, credit card or check
- Do not overburden yourself with packages. This will help deter pickpockets or purse snatchers
- Do not park next to a van or truck where people can hide

While Driving:

- Be alert at intersections and stoplights. They can be favorite spots for persons with a criminal intent
- Keep your car in gear. If you are threatened, blow the horn, then drive away. Leave enough space between you and the car in front of you to pull around if necessary
- Keep windows rolled up and doors locked at all times
- Keep valuables (purses, packages, wallets, etc.) out of sight
- If followed – do not drive home. Go to a police station, fire house, gas station or other public place
- If car breaks down, stay with the car and accept NO rides. If someone stops to help, ask them to call the police. Use a cell phone if available
- Keep your vehicle well maintained and gassed up
- When partaking of “holiday cheer,” good judgment is always in order.
Remember seatbelts do save lives

While Traveling

- Plan your day; know where you are going and what you are doing.
- Let a friend or family member know your plans.
- Avoid distractions. Distractions attract criminals.
- Carry a cellular phone and have emergency phone numbers available.
- Pay attention to your surroundings. Know where assistance is located.
- Avoid short cuts. Use well -lit and traveled roads.
- Use debit or credit cards if possible, carry enough money to pay for your errands. If carrying a large amount of money, separate your money into the amounts needed and place them in different pockets.
- Secure your purse or wallet after use.
- Have your vehicle checked and maintained according to vehicle specifications.
- **If you are on campus and see suspicious persons or packages please report it to Public Safety X2222**

Vehicle Safety

- Park in well lit areas.
- Lock and secure your car, place packages and other valuables out of sight.
- When returning to your car, try to leave with a group of people.
- Check the outside and inside of the vehicle prior to entering.
- Have your keys available to open the door, get in and then lock the doors.
- Maintain a full tank of gas, keep doors locked and windows closed.
If someone tries to get you to stop your vehicle and / or divert your attention, try to stop in a well lit and populated area then contact help.
- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended.
- **For an off campus emergency dial X 2222, in case of an off campus emergency dial 911**

Remember if you **SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING.**

“To Protect and Educate”

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We would like to inform you of some **Holiday Safety Tips** before you leave the campus for the winter break.

- Be sure to lock your doors and windows when leaving your room, even for brief periods.
- If you have any lock problems, broken windows or doors, report them to your RA before you leave campus for the Holidays.
- Always secure your valuables and never leave items such as pocketbooks, wallets, keys, cell phones etc. unattended even for brief periods of time.
Remove any valuables from desktops, window sills and shelves. Where practical, remove all personal valuable items from your dorm room.
- Do not display holiday gifts where they can be seen from windows, doorways or openly viewable areas.
- Unplug electrical appliances- such as fridges, computers or televisions etc. Report any electrical problems to your RA before you leave campus for the Holidays.
- Record all serial numbers or mark valuables with an identification number.

If you have any non-emergency questions related to this Safety Advisory, please feel free to call Public Safety at ext. 2214. If you have any health-related questions, call C.W. Post Student Health & Counseling Center at ext. 2345.

The Department of Public Safety Wishes You a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

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