



# When you travel Holiday Safety Tips

*If over the river and through the woods and off to grandmother's house you go is in your holiday plans this year don't forget to take the time to do a bit of crime preventative pre-trip planning. Sheriff Demings and your Sheriff's Office want you to have a safe and happy holiday season.*

## **Securing your home**

- ★ If you are leaving your home for an extended period of time during the holidays, or any time for that matter, making your home appear as though it is occupied will dramatically reduce your chances of a burglary. Don't discuss your travel plans with strangers or people you don't trust.
- ★ If you have an alarm be sure to set it. This would be a great time to make sure your alarm company has all of your updated emergency contact information so they can make the appropriate notifications should something happen while you are away.
- ★ Purchase two or three electronic timers and program them to have lights in different parts of your home go on and off during the evening and consider leaving a radio on while you are away.
- ★ Have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your daily newspaper and remove your mail from your mailbox every day. If that person happens to have more than one car ask if he or she can park one of them in your driveway. Leave your travel itinerary and emergency contact information with that friend.
- ★ Some law enforcement agencies offer variations of a "home vacation watch." Check to see if yours does. (The Sheriff's Office does!) You will be asked to provide some basic information about your travel plans and who a patrol unit might see at your home while you are away. Be sure to tell them about that "trusted neighbor" who could be in your house feeding your cat or watering your plants while you are away and make it a point to cancel the service should you arrive home early.
- ★ You will most certainly need to carry cash during your trip, but carry as little as possible. Traveler's Checks and credit cards are much safer alternatives.

## **While in your car**

- ★ "Preflight" your car before you go. Check tire pressure, oil, fluids, and lights. Better yet... have your mechanic give your car a thorough once-over before leaving on a long road trip. Going to a colder climate? Be sure your car is winterized!
- ★ Got a cell phone? Don't leave home without it or its charger. Got a GPS? Bring it so you don't have to sit on the side of the road and read a map. Be sure to carry a map as a backup and if you must ask for directions do so at a business in a busy, well-lit area.
- ★ Travel with your doors locked, windows up, wear your seat belts, and use those child safety seats. When you stop at a stop light always leave enough room so you can see the rear tires of the car in front of you... you will be able to safely drive around that car if you need to.
- ★ Daytime car travel is always preferable. If you do travel at night pick and choose your rest and comfort stops and try to plan in advance where you will stop for fuel.
- ★ Law enforcement agencies usually conduct high profile traffic safety details during the holidays. Obey speed limits and traffic control devices. Don't even think about getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol. We want you to arrive alive and healthy to enjoy all that the holidays have to offer.
- ★ Keep your valuable items in the trunk or out of site whenever possible. Limit the personal information you place on your luggage tags. (Work addresses and phone numbers are a great alternative to personal information.)

