

VICTORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

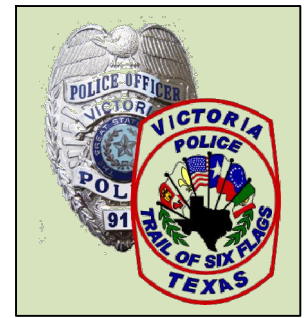
CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009



Holiday Season Safety:

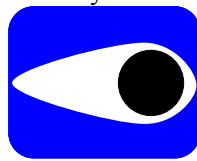
The Crime Prevention Unit would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Here are some easy tips to help keep you safe during the holidays.



Homes

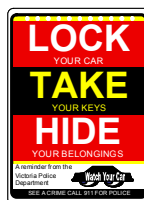
During this season and as always be sure to keep all your doors and windows locked. If you're going to be out of town have the Post Office hold your mail while you're away. If you get the newspaper have the delivery suspended or have a neighbor pick it up for you daily. A pile of newspapers and/or an accumulation of mail are an easy way for a thief to know that no one is home. This makes it more tempting for the thief to try and break in. You could place timers on your lights, so they turn off and on their own. Giving a thief the impression that someone could be inside. This causes the thief to look for another house to break into. You should always have a neighbor, friend, or relative stop by and check on your house while you're away. Let them know if anyone else should be at the house, and make sure they have a way to contact you. After the holidays, be careful of what you leave out on the curb as trash. Try not to throw the boxes from TV's, DVD Players, Stereo's, Video Game Consoles, and other valuables that you get, out on the curb. Leaving the box on the street is like a billboard telling everyone, even the thieves, what items could be inside. If a thief sees boxes to expensive things, they may be tempted to break in to get the

items. Try to cut up the boxes and put them inside a garbage can or bag. Be sure to record all of the serial numbers to the new items you get and all of your valuable items you already have.



Vehicles

Always be sure to lock your doors and roll up the windows. Never leave property in the seats, floorboards or the beds of trucks. Hide items so they cannot be seen by someone looking into your car. Be sure to take down and hide your radar detectors, GPS units etc.... and the mounts. Leaving the mounts or the cords in plain sight tells a thief that there could be some property inside. If an item can be easily carried, take it with you or just simply leave the things you don't need at home. The idea is to make the car appear that there is nothing inside it. This causes a thief to move on to another car.



Shopping

Only take what you need. The fewer things you carry is the less you have to keep up with. If you carry a purse while you shop try to keep it on you. Do not leave it in the shopping cart, on a shelf, or on the counter. If you get distracted someone can easily grab it and walk away. Try using credit cards instead of carrying large amounts of cash. A thief might see the cash and try and take it from you. If you don't have credit cards you can simply purchase a gift card or a pre paid credit card. Do not take things out to your car, leave them, and then go back inside. A thief might be looking for people doing this, making the car a target for the thief to break into. To avoid this, simply get into your car and move it to another area in the parking lot. The thief will think you left and move on to another car.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

The Crime Prevention would like to announce the Greenbriar Neighborhood Watch. There was a good turnout for the first meeting and several members stepped up to be the Coordinator and Block Captains. This seems to be a proactive group, wanting to do their part in making the Community a safer place to live.

Be sure to get with your Coordinator or Block Captains for your next Neighborhood Watch meeting. If your group does not have a Coordinator or don't know who it is contact the Crime Prevention Office at (361) 485-3808.

COORDINATORS:

Contact the Crime Prevention Office to start setting up Neighborhood Watch meetings and be sure to discuss a topic for the meeting. Please let us know if you need any help.

Crime Prevention Tip:

The Victoria Crime Prevention Unit wants to let everyone know that the 2010 U.S. Census process is has begun. We would like everyone to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

There will be more than 140,000 US census workers counting every person in the United States. They will be gathering information about every person living in each house including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The Census Bureau may ask for your salary range but you do not need to give this information if you don't want to. The Census Bureau only really needs to know how many people live in the household.

How do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist?

U.S. Census workers will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering any questions.

The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

DO NOT give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. Remember, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY (361)573-3221

Police Department (361)485-3700

Crime Prevention (361)485-3808



Crime Prevention Unit

Located at the Victoria Police Department
Substation-Victoria Mall (Between Sears and
Chick-fil-A).

Office Open: Monday – Friday
Time: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Telephone #: (361)485-3808