

From the Police Department

From the desk of Chief Sturgill...



This holiday season don't let the spirit of giving distract you into giving the "bad guys" chance to do their dirty work. Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts, Stores, malls and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers, People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy. The following are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

If Traveling

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.
- Contact the CHPD and place a "vacation watch" on your home.

If Just Out for the Evening

- Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

If You Are Shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and know where your exit points and escape routes are.

Protect Your Vehicle

- Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight. Anything left in plain view—from holiday gifts to spare change, sunglasses, cell phones—may tempt a thief.
- Help prevent your vehicle from being stolen by always locking your car and using anti-theft devices. And although it's cold, never leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or a store—even if for only a minute or two.



From the Police Department (continued)

If a Stranger Comes to the Door

- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts, so be cautious when accepting a package.
- It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.
- Report any solicitors to the CHPD.

Take a Holiday Inventory

- The holidays are a good time to update your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. A detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.
- Make sure things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list.


Holiday Package Theft

- Track deliveries online and confirm delivery has occurred. You can sign up for email notifications to track your packages from initial shipment to its arrival at your home, or the recipient's address if you have the gift delivered directly.
- If you know a family member or neighbor will be home, ask them to pick up the packages as soon as they are delivered.
- Switch delivery location to work where it can be received by someone and not left on the porch.
- See if the post office or the store the product is being shipped from can hold the package for pick up.
- The post office will allow your package to remain safe and secure for up to 30 days.

Enjoy the Season!

Last but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. And think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.



 The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Chief Brian Sturgill

From the Police Department (continued)

2018 "Shop-with-a-Cop"

On December 15, members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department and the George Murray #67 Fraternal Order of Police participated in the annual "Shop-with-a Cop." Funds are raised for this event through raffle ticket sales and local donations. Eighteen different law enforcement agencies and volunteers got together to take over 350 kids on a holiday shopping spree. After the shopping was completed, all returned to the Garfield Heights High School for a pizza party and a visit from Santa!



From the Dispatch Department

The Three S's of Winter Prep: Season, Storm, Supplies.

Seasonal Maintenance is Critical

Have snow-removal equipment and the heating system serviced on an annual basis, which includes testing to make sure the heat is working throughout the home.

Insulate any pipes that are susceptible to freezing and unhook hoses from outdoor faucets. Plus, it's a good idea to locate your water shut-off valve and ensure it is in working order.

Storm Preparation is Important

Pay attention to local TV and radio stations for important weather updates.

Become familiar with how to trip the manual release on overhead garage door openers and have shovels ready ahead of the storm.

Make a family communication plan in case you're not together when the storm hits.

When a storm is imminent, move vehicles off the street.

Supplies are Crucial

Have bottled water and non-perishable foods, clothing and blankets, batteries and flashlights, snow shovels and other snow-removal equipment on-hand in the event of an extended power outage.

Keep a supply of rock salt, other ice melt or sand, in case the stores run out during a particular storm.

Don't forget your pets - bring them inside during bad weather.



Just a reminder to all our residents that if you are going on vacation you can call dispatch at 883-6800 to put a special attention on your home. We are going to ask you when you will be leaving and when you will be returning home, if you have stopped your mail and paper, if you are going to leave any lights on in your home, if anyone will be stopping at your home during your absence and an emergency telephone number in case there is a problem. Dispatch will then forward that information to the police officers, so they can check your residence throughout the day and night.