



Quinlan Police Department

P.O. Box 2740 ~ 104 East Main St.
Quinlan, TX 75474
Ph. (903) 356-2500 ~ Fax (903) 356-2501

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is always a special time of the year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. The Quinlan Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

Driving

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with campers shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside of a business, mall, or well-lighted location.
- Protect your pin by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.



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Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, “con-artists” may try various methods of distracting you with intention of taking your money or belongings.

Children

- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and phone number to give to police or security should they get separated from you. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when leaving the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television or maybe even a light on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.