



## Winter Safety Tips

The following winter Safety Tips were compiled to contribute to the safety and security of our community during the holiday and winter season. It is also a time when people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The UIC Police Department would like to wish you and your families a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

***Take a moment to read this flyer of tips in order to insure your shopping, commuting, home and personal security this and every season.***

***DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THE THIEVES!***

### Con Artists

- If a deal sounds too good to be true; it probably is.
- Be wary of any get rich quick scheme that wants you to invest money in advance.
- Never give out your credit card information over the phone unless you made the call.

### Leaving Town for the Holiday Season

- Lock doors and windows securely.
- Place valuables that you cannot take with you out of sight in your apartment/home and unplug all appliances before you leave.
- Make your house/apartment look occupied; have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers, set televisions and lights on timers, leave your blinds, shades, and curtains in their normal positions, and keep your property shoveled.

### Shopping

- Carry your purse/bag close to the body and never leave your purse in a shopping cart while you shop.
- Take only cash and the credit cards that you need. Try to avoid taking a large purse. Use a small change purse or wallet that can be carried in an inside pocket.
- Please stay alert at all times, especially in crowded areas. Thieves often work in pairs. One may bump into you while another picks your pocket.
- Don't leave shopping carts unattended while you get your car. Be alert for suspicious persons loitering in the area who may snatch your purse or packages.

### Traveling

- Plan your stops in advance and inform others of your destinations. If you can, shop with friends or relatives - there is always safety in numbers.
- Park your auto as close to your destination as possible, preferably in a well-lit and busy area. Close all windows and lock all doors on your vehicle and NEVER leave valuables in plain view in your auto.
- When using public washrooms, use extreme caution. Avoid putting your purse/bag on hooks or door handles. Keep your purse with you at all times.

**Please call your local Police Department or UICPD immediately to report any unusual activity.**