

Safety Fact Sheet



The Utah Safety Council cares about your safety outside of the work setting. We offer resources that keep you and your loved ones safe at home, at play and on the go.

SHOP TIL' YOU DROP

While you are enjoying picking that perfect gift, a Grinch may be enjoying picking your pocket. Unfortunately, your chances of being a victim of theft increases during the months of November-January.



A little extra attention can help you play it safe.

- **HEAD'S UP!** Keep your eyes up and take note of what's happening around you. Check behind you as well.
- **GET A GRIP.** Thieves look for easy pickings. Grip items firmly and avoid leaving them unattended.
- **LESS IS MORE.** An understated approach to holiday shopping is in order. Flashing cash and valuables may make you an object of desire.
- **TWO BY TWO.** Shopping is more fun when done with others. It's also the safest method.
- **PAPER OR PLASTIC?** Using debit or credit cards is safer than carrying a lot of cash. Thieves like fresh greens.
- **TIMING IS EVERYTHING.** Avoid going to an ATM early in the morning or late at night when fewer people are around. If you feel any uneasiness – do not approach the ATM.
- **LOCK IT IN.** Don't leave packages visible inside your vehicle. Lock your gifts in the trunk.
- **BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY.** Park close to your destination, even if it means waiting for a space to open. Choose a well-lit area. When you're coming back to your vehicle, keep your keys in hand, so you can get in quickly.
- **READY. SET. GO!** Keep your engine on until you're ready to leave your vehicle. Be sure to check your surroundings to make sure the area looks safe before you get out.
- **GOT KIDS?** Keep a keen eye on your tots each holiday season. Take their hands in parking lots and while crossing streets. Never leave children unattended.

Ready for the Road or Take Off?

Holidays are filled with special gatherings and merriment making. Before you take to the road or take flight to meet with family and friends, be sure you are travel ready.

- **CHECK IT OUT!** Have your mechanic check your vehicle before you hit the road for the holidays. Pay special attention to your tires. Tires in poor condition make for bad mileage and dangerous driving. Don't forget the spare.
- **X MARKS THE SPOT.** Everyone loves an adventure – but only Santa knows the way to everyone's house. Have a GPS or map handy for your road trip. Plan ahead, know your route and check weather conditions. If you become lost, pull over to a safe place to get back on course.
- **KNOW YOUR FRIENDS.** Travel with emergency contacts in hand. Bring State Police information for each state through which you will travel.
- **THE WHOLE KIT AND CABOODLE.** Equip your vehicle with a travel safety kit. Items should include: jumper cables, flashlight, batteries, reflectors, water, fire extinguisher and basic tools.

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- **UNDERCOVER.** No need to have uninvited guests visit your home. Use covered luggage tags to conceal your address. You may want to use your office address instead of your home address.
- **NEVER ALONE.** On overnight flights, keep an eye on your valuables. Put your valuables in a security waist pack and wear it while sleeping. When you go to the restroom, take your valuables with you. If you place your carry-on bag on the floor, put your foot through the strap; don't leave it loose.
- **TAXI!** When you need a lift don't choose an unmarked taxi; if necessary, take public transportation. Make sure someone knows your final destination, a description of the driver and the license plate information. Keep your mobile phone close.

Home Away from Home for the Holidays?

There is no place like home but holiday travel may mean making a hotel home. As you settle in be sure to keep these simple tips in mind:

- **SMALLER IS SMARTER.** When choosing a hotel you want the staff to be familiar with its guests. Select a hotel with a smaller lobby, where the staff can be more aware of who is entering and exiting.
- **PICKY PARKING.** Look for parking in a well lit and secure lot. If you valet park, check that the valet driver does not put your room number on the card that will go on the dashboard of your vehicle. Keep your room number private. Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle.
- **SHHH.** There should be privacy for guests checking in. No one should be able to overhear your name, room number, or other personal information. Keep your room number private
- **GOING UP.** Be sure to stand clear of the elevator door as it is closing. Elevator door sensors are not always completely reliable. If someone suspicious boards an elevator, exit as soon as possible. If you are attacked while on an elevator, press all floor level buttons. This will cause the elevator to make several stops allowing you to get out or get someone's attention.
- **PEEK-A-BOO.** Your hotel room door should have double locks—one of which is a dead bolt—and a peephole. Examine all locks on doors and windows to ensure proper functioning. Check the room thoroughly to make sure no one is hiding.
- **DO NOT DISTURB.** The "please make up this room" sign tells everyone you're not in. Ask the maid to make your room up during breakfast or while you are present. Using the "do not disturb" sign can make the room seem occupied. Leave the television on when leaving your room. Lock all valuables in the room or front-desk safe.
- **A LOOK BOTH WAYS. QUICK STUDY.** Be aware of your surroundings by looking to the left and right and behind you with your head up at all times. You may appear paranoid or funny to others, but an attacker will think twice about approaching someone who appears alert.
- **LOOK THE PART.** Be wary when getting off a bus or train, or riding stairs and escalators; that is when pickpockets tend to strike. Carry one credit card and divide money for small and large purchases, so you don't have to expose large amounts of cash. Have gratuities ready for doormen.
- **THE INSIDE ADVANTAGE.** Keep your purse or wallet close to the front of your body. On sidewalks, keep your handbag and other valuables away from the street side and away from the opposite ramp while on escalators.

As you enter the holiday hustle and bustle, remember to put safety at the top of your list. Think Safe. Think Family.