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 INSURANCE SERVICES

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## Holiday Safety Tips



The Winter Holidays are wonderful times for family, food and shopping. They're also a good time for mishaps: thieves, fires, injury, etc. Below are some tips to help you have a safe Christmas season.



### Shopping, while shopping, shopping online!

Shop where you are comfortable – where you know the surroundings. Keep your eyes OPEN.

Think about how you carry a wallet or purse. Keep them

## Holiday Season Safety

If you're going to leave home for the holidays, don't post your travel plans online! Let a family member or trusted friend/neighbor know and ask them to look after your home.

Stop the mail and newspaper delivery. Ask a neighbor to pick up any packages or notices left at your door.

Don't hide a key outside. Thieves know where keys are hidden.

Set timers for lights – set them for an odd time.

**December is the deadliest month for electrical fires!**

Take just the cards and cash you need and keep them in a front pocket.

Lock Everything! Obviously, lock your car. But think about your home as well. Even if you have family coming in who want to arrive while you're at work or out shopping, find another way to give them access.

SET the alarm in your home. If you have house guests, make sure they know how to use the alarm system. You can change passcodes later if needed.

Don't tell the social media world where you are. Be careful with online store check-in apps. If a thief knows you're out shopping, they might take that opportunity.

Use a computer you control, making sure the anti-virus and malware software is up to date and running correctly.

Make sure you know and trust the website you're using.

Use a credit card instead of a debit card. And use a card you can easily check online to make sure your charges are correct.

Use strong passwords and change them after you've finished shopping for the year.

outdoors...sounds simple. Same for extension cords!

Make sure your furnace or fireplace has been inspected – clean chimney, functional flue, etc. Check your smoke alarms.

Remember all the candles you lit. Make sure they aren't close to anything flammable and blow them out.

Make sure your tree is well-watered and situated well away from any candles or heat sources.

Watch out for pets getting into your tree and knocking it over.

Watch those turkey fryers! And make sure you use them in an open, WELL ventilated area. Have the proper extinguisher for a grease fire.

Monitor all cooking going on. Food, especially on the stove top, can overheat and cause problems faster than you think.

Hide gifts. They make a Christmas tree look full and inviting. But to a thief looking in a window they are even more inviting.

After the holidays, break any boxes down and make sure they fit inside your garbage or recycle containers. Don't advertise to potential thieves what really great gifts you received!

Turn your tree and other holiday lights off when you leave or go to bed.

If you purchase a live tree, make sure to inspect it for critters before you bring it in your house. Some insects lay their eggs in trees for the Winter. They may hatch when they get warm and toasty in your home - with you.

Sources: Huffingtonpost.com, Safewise.com, Parents.com, Houselogic.com, and Asecurelife.com

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