

MONTHLY

UC SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Poster of the Month

Practical Tips to Help You Keep Yourself, Your Co-workers and Your UC Campus Safe, Healthy and Secure

DEC 2017/JAN 2018

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE & SECURE

During the Holidays

With all of the decorations, shopping, parties and fun coming up with the holiday season, it's important to be safe while also having fun. Make sure to have a monitored security system. There are several other things you can do in addition to that to help keep your home and family safe. Here are five tips to help you do just that.

Keep Your Travel Plans Offline

If you are planning to travel during the holiday season, be sure to keep your travel plans off your social media networks. Never post where you are going, when you are leaving, or when you will be back. This is prime information for a thief because he will know when your house will be empty. Even if you have the highest-level of security on your Facebook or Twitter accounts, posting this personal information is never recommended.

Notify a Neighbor

If you are planning to go out of town during the holiday season, be sure to notify a trusted neighbor. Ask the neighbor to keep an eye on your house and report any suspicious activity. You'll also want this neighbor to keep your walks cleared of snow and to pick up your mail and newspapers while you are away. Make sure your house looks like somebody is home to deter a burglar.

Hide Any Christmas Gifts

You probably want to keep gifts out of sight from children, but you also want to make sure gifts are hidden from a potential burglar as well. Putting pretty wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree looks nice, but it's also an open invitation for a burglar. Try to keep your Christmas tree, with gifts underneath, away from windows or other places with a view. When you aren't home, it's easy to break through a window and grab all of your gifts.

Take care of your electronics as well, those that are meant as gifts and those already in the home. Keep cameras, CDs, DVD

players, computers, and iPads within your view and out of sight for a burglar.

Watch Your Christmas Lights

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, December is the deadliest month for electrical fires. Before you string lights on the house or the tree, be sure to inspect the strands to make sure there aren't any frayed cords or cracked lamps. Replace any broken lamps and throw away strands with frayed cords. This will help prevent any accidental fires. You'll want to buy cords that have been tested by an independent laboratory, like the Underwriters Laboratory. Be sure to check the packaging to see that the manufacturer's name and information is clearly marked.

Also, be sure to turn any holiday lights off when you go out for the evening or when you go to bed. Try using an outdoor timer to switch lights on and off.

Inspect the Furnace and the Chimney

Heating equipment, like furnaces and fires cause many deaths every year in the United States. Take the time to have a professional come inspect your furnace and clean the chimney before you need to heat your home.

The holidays can be the most wonderful time of the year, as long as you stay safe during them. Be sure to take the precautions you need in order to fully enjoy the season.

Source: SafeWise

