Tips for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season

This holiday season, don’t let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars and thieves a chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it’s an opportunity for crime. Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

AT HOME
Don’t display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers. The UTSA Police Department can engrave your items for free. Avoid leaving boxes from purchases out on the curb for trash pickup.

IF YOU’RE SHOPPING
Stay alert and be aware of what’s going on around you. Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock your car. Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, “con-artists” may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings. Load your trunk when you leave a location — never open a trunk, fill it full of valuables, close it, and then just walk away to do more shopping or other errands.

HOLIDAY PARTY SAFETY
Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests. Take a mental note and do a last check of your bar area and secure it. Don’t over serve and have a plan in case some guests drink too much. Designate someone that is not drinking to take people home. Obey the law! The legal drinking age in Texas is 21 and furnishing alcohol to a minor is an arrestable offense! Watch what you drink and know your limits. A good rule is 0-1-3: 0 drinks if you’re driving or underage, 1 drink per hour, no more than 3 drinks in an evening.

Last but not least, don’t let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. And think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who is less fortunate or lonely. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody—except criminals.

Road Rage: Don’t Become a Statistic

According to a recent news article, Bexar County has had the most reports of road rage crashes in the state over the last few years. From 2007 to 2011, police officers and sheriff’s deputies in Bexar County cited road rage as a contributing factor in 680 wrecks that injured 280 people. The numbers in Bexar County exceeded those in larger counties with more residents and traffic, including Harris and Dallas.

The San Antonio Police Department has targeted aggressive drivers for more than a decade. Officers drive unmarked cars to find and ticket motorists who speed, tailgate and change lanes excessively. UTSA Police Department has two officers assigned to a motorcycle and one officer to a patrol car for traffic duties. These officers look for speeding on campus and failing to yield the right of way to pedestrians among other traffic violations.

From 2007 to 2011, road rage crashes in Texas peaked during evening rush hour, with a quarter of all accidents occurring between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Three out of four motorists accused of road rage were male. Statwide, a third of all road rage motorists are in their 20s.

There’s no specific criminal charge for road rage in Texas. In felony cases of aggravated assault, authorities must prove the driver’s intent. The misdemeanor charge of reckless driving has a lower burden of proof, but also carries less jail time. The maximum punishment is 30 days in jail and a $200 fine.
Most students experience some form of stress during college finals. While a little stress is OK because it motivates people to take action, too much stress can be harmful to a student’s health. The following tips offer ways college students can cope with stress during finals:

- Get enough sleep
- Exercise to Reduce Stress
- Organize Study Groups
- Pay attention to details
- Create a Schedule for Studying
- Remember to eat
- Be prepared

It is vital that you study the right things. Take another look at the syllabus and any assignments your professor has given you.

Pay attention to details
Make sure you know the time your final will be given and if the professor will be requiring a bluebook, scantron, etc.

Don’t worry
Stress is normal. It’s what motivates people to do better and to actually study for that final.

Exercise to Reduce Stress
Physical activity decreases the production of stress hormones in the body. Students who engage in some type of physical activity during finals will have a much easier time coping with their stress.

Create a Schedule for Studying
A finals schedule lets students map out time for studying for final exams and the work will seem much more feasible to accomplish.

Organize Study Groups
Some students experience stress during finals because they don’t understand material that will appear on their final exam. Students can organize study groups with their classmates.

But at the end of the day, when you’ve done all you could do, turn off that brain, crash for a good eight hours, and walk into that final rested and fed. You know you’ve given your all to prepare. Any further worrying will just increase your chances of freezing up.
Be Smart...Be Safe: Holidays and DWI Don’t Mix!

According to safety experts, the daily death toll from drunk driving crashes during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period is significantly more than during the rest of the year.

During December in Texas on average more than 2,400 alcohol-related traffic crashes occur, resulting in 80 fatalities on Texas roads and highways. This year, TxDOT and Santa's reindeer have some important message for Texas drivers—don't drive if you're tipsy, buzzed or "Blitzen"; call a cab or get a sober home ride instead.

TxDOT is sponsoring a holiday-themed public education campaign to remind Texans not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking. Throughout the holiday season, law enforcement statewide will be working overtime to find and arrest impaired drivers from now through New Year's Day.

The Texas Department of Transportation wants to remind Texas motorists to celebrate responsibly and for everyone to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. TxDOT is making a special effort to reach motorists with 'don't drink and drive' reminders. Convicted first-time DWI offenders face a fine of up to $2,000, loss of their driver's license for up to a year, and up to 180 days in jail. Costs associated with an impaired driving arrest and conviction can add up to more than $17,000 for bail, legal fees, and other court expenses. For all of 2009, there were 12,408 alcohol-related crashes in Texas that killed 956 motorists and injured 17,703 others.

Reference: Texas Department of Transportation press release

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Stranger Danger...The Adult Version

- Don't give them any personal information.
- Keep a safe distance between you and the individual.
- Don't go to your apartment, but instead turn and go somewhere where people are gathered or knock on a neighbor’s door.
- Have your cell phone and house keys already out before getting out of your automobile or off the bus.

- Don’t have your arms full of objects, keep at least one hand free.
- Be aware of your surroundings; use all your senses when walking alone. Remain alert!
- Don’t allow them into your residence.

Call the police and report any suspicious activity immediately. 210-458-4911 or 911 if you reside off campus.

ALL ACCESS: Spotlight on Security Cameras by Jessina Skelton (Director, Security Services)

Card Access during Holidays and Building Closures

As many of you know, buildings are normally locked down after hours and during university holidays. To ensure that you have access to the exterior of a building, please contact your designated Authorized Administrative Official or Dean and ask that they submit a request to Access Services for access to specific exterior doors with card readers. This will ensure that you have access to your research facilities, academic areas or offices after hours or during holiday breaks.

You should plan on having your UTSA Banner ID card with you to ensure you have immediate access. This will allow us to keep the buildings secured yet allow you the access you need. Doors should not be propped open and persons needing access to a secured building should have their UTSA credentials/ID cards. We understand that security is not always convenient; however we work with departments and personnel to help understand their goals while also working to keep your people, your assets and your property safe and secure.

Security Cameras on Campus

Surveillance can be a valuable security program.

Photo From: UTSA PD

Have a Happy, Safe and Joy-Filled Holiday Season!
Best wishes from the staff at the University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department.
Safety Highlights Lorenzo D. Sanchez, MPA (UTSA Director of Emergency Management)

Winter Storms & Extreme Cold

While the danger from winter weather varies across the country, nearly all Americans, regardless of where they live, are likely to face some type of severe winter weather at some point in their lives. Winter storms in Central Texas can include dangerously low temperatures, strong winds, icing, sleet, snow, and freezing rain.

One of the primary concerns is the winter weather’s ability to knock out heat, power and communications services at UTSA, your home, or office. In extreme situations, heavy snowfall, ice, and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region.

The National Weather Service refers to winter storms as the “Deceptive Killers” because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Instead, people die in traffic accidents on icy roads and of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold. It is important to be prepared for winter weather before it strikes.

To prepare for a winter storm you should do the following:

1. Prepare for a winter storm you should do the following: Before winter approaches, add the following supplies to your emergency kit:
   - Rock salt; sand to improve traction; sufficient heating fuel; and adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.
   - Make a Family Communications Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
   - Be alert to changing weather conditions; Minimize travel.
   - Bring pets/companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with non-frozen drinking water.

2. During Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

   - Stay indoors during the storm; walk carefully on snowy, icy, walkways.
   - Watch for signs of frostbite. These include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes, and the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.
   - Watch for signs of hypothermia. These include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion. If symptoms of hypothermia are detected, get the victim to a warm location, remove wet clothing, warm the center of the body first and give warm, non-alcoholic beverages if the victim is conscious. Get medical help as soon as possible.

   - If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
   - Maintain ventilation when using kerosene heaters to avoid build-up of toxic fumes. Refuel kerosene heaters outside and keep them at least three feet from flammable objects.

   - After Winter Storms and Extreme Cold

     - Continue to protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.
     - With these tips, you can be safe and prepared before the old Jack Frost heads to San Antonio. For more on emergency preparedness, visit the UTSA Campus alerts webpage at www.alerts.utsa.edu. Be Prepared – Make a Plan – Stay Informed! Be safe UTSA!

Detective Time by Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)

Many of us have been victims of theft or know someone who has been a victim. At times it may be difficult to locate stolen items if there are no witnesses, surveillance video or traceable evidence. So how can you make it easier for Detectives investigating your theft case? Here are a few tips that can help us with the recovery or identification of your personal property that has been stolen.

First, record information that will help identify your property. Keep it filed in a safe and easily accessible location so you can provide it to the Detectives if you file a theft report. You should consider photographing your property and writing down its serial number, brand name and model on the back of the photograph. This will alleviate some stress when the Detective asks you to provide a description of the stolen item. It will also allow the Detective to quickly research various pawn shops if in case it was pawned.

If you have credit or debit cards, have the number and card type saved and stored somewhere accessible upon request of the Officer taking the report. Call and cancel your stolen credit card and immediately request for a statement or information pertaining to any non authorized charges, such as location, date, times and purchase amounts. This will help expedite the investigation process and allow us to possibly obtain surveillance video, if available, from locations where the card was used.

Secondly you should etch your driver’s license number to the back of your property near the serial number. Example: (TX11112222). This will make it easier to identify if it is recovered or pawned. A pawn shop should not accept any property that belongs to a third party without proof of ownership. If you do not have the capability of etching your driver’s license to your property, the UTSA Police Department Crime Prevention Section provides this service free of charge. Please take advantage of this program.

And the third tip involves one of the most popular stolen items on campus, but the hardest to recover. I am talking about your school books. Books are difficult to locate because there is nothing that uniquely identifies them as belonging to you. Therefore, you should write your name or something that identifies you as the owner of the book somewhere inside the book itself, even under a specific page. This will allow Detectives to look at books that have recently been resold to bookstores and identify yours.
Schedule of Events For December 2012

**Wednesday Dec. 11, 2012**
Late Night Pancake Breakfast
9:00 pm at Roadrunner Café
A UTSA tradition to show our students encouragement during Finals.

**Thursday Dec. 13, 2012**
Coffee with the Cops
Begins 7:00 am at UC Starbucks
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

**Friday Dec. 14, 2012**
UTSAPD Promotion and Awards Ceremony
10:00 am at UC Denman Rm
UTSAPD will celebrate promotions and yearly awards to our staff.

**December 19 & 20, 2012**
UTSA Commencement
Various times at Convocation Center
Celebrate as UTSA graduates walk across the stage in recognition of their accomplishments.

Lost and Found

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.6247 (Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm).
To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver’s license, UTSA photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section. **NOTE—Departments, please promptly turn in any lost and found items you may have so we can return them to their owners in a timely fashion.**

The below listed items are currently being held by UTSAPD. If not claimed in 30 days, they will be disposed of in accordance with policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Books/Binders/Folders/Spirals</td>
<td>Various Brands &amp; Colors</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Jewelry &amp; Watches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Umbrellas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IDs</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TX License Plate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>TX License</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Small Make-up/pencil Bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Calculators</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cellphones/chargers</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>SSN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Prescription Glasses/Sunglasses</td>
<td>Various Brands</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Skateboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>167</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>Headphones, iPods, Flash drives, etc.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Backpacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wallets</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Keys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Crime Report for the Month of November 2012

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred as of the 20th of the last month. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

Thefts = 18  Alcohol Arrests = 18
Burglary of Vehicle = 2  Drug Arrests = 7
Assaults = 3  DWI/DUI Arrests = 5
Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0  Other Crimes = 10

Santa is Coming to Town. Please Don’t Hit Him.
Don’t Drink & Drive.

Don’t let fear keep you from getting the grade you want!

UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
Secure It. Keep It.

Properly Lock Your Bike

Cycles are very easy to steal because most owners leave the bike unlocked or improperly lock the bike. Understanding the most common types of theft can help you protect your bike and lock it with confidence.

Keep your bicycle locked at all times, and use a strong lock. Use a case-hardened U-type lock. Weak or inexpensive locks will not deter a thief. Make sure to fill up as much space inside the "U" as possible.

If you notice someone "hanging around" a bicycle rack, report this to UTSA-PD. Call 210.458.4911 if you notice suspicious people anywhere on campus.

Engrave your bicycle with your driver’s license number. Your driver's license number is a recognizable identifier that a police department would be able to use to try to get the bicycle back to you.

Record your bicycle’s make, model and serial number and store this information in a safe place. In case it is stolen, you will have this information available.

Protect your bike by registering it. Registering your bike greatly aids in its return to you if it is recovered by the police. Options include the National Bike Registry at www.nationalbikeregistry.com or registering your bike with the UTSA-PD. Call 210.877.4006 for more information.

Holidays

The UTSA Crime Prevention Unit would like to remind all members of the community that while ‘Tis the season to be jolly its also a prime time for criminals to capitalize on opportunities to steal your personal information putting you at risk for “Identity Theft”. The Federal Trade Commission estimates that approximately 10 million individuals have their identities stolen each year. Theft of identity has the potential for considerable damage, loss and stress. Victims may be denied job opportunities, education loans and even housing due to negative credit reports. Take a proactive approach to lowering your risk by safeguarding your information, do not provide personal information on phone or through the mail, or over the Internet, unless you initiate the contact. Monitor your financial accounts and billing statements to identify suspicious/unauthorized activity promptly.

Order your “free” credit report annually by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com. Place “fraud alerts” on your credit reports, file police report promptly and report your complaint to FTC. Reference: ftc.gov/idtheft

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

The holidays are upon us once again and we would like to wish everyone on campus a great holiday season. But we couldn’t let you go without also emphasizing we want it to be a safe season as well. This Runner Beat issue provides some basic tips involving your personal safety and how to avoid situations where you may be vulnerable to crime. When it comes to personal safety please be aware of your surroundings especially when out shopping or driving to parties or functions. The threat of fraud is more pronounced during the holidays and is something we should all be conscious of as we make purchases, whether in a store or on the internet. Thieves are always looking for creative ways to steal your credit card information or possibly your identity to make purchases on your card or in your name. Avoid shopping at stores during the evening hours and park in well lit areas or have someone with you if you have to walk in the dark to get to your car. Traffic is sometimes hectic during the holidays so plan on being a cautious and good defensive driver to avoid potential accidents, especially those of you going on road trips to visit your family. These are just some basics to consider while you are enjoying the holiday season. For those lucky students who are graduating this December, congratulations on your accomplishment and good luck in the future! Again, have a great and safe holiday break and we look forward to seeing everyone after the holidays!