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 opportune time 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. Shop with friends or relatives if possible; there is safety in numbers.

HOLIDAY PARTY SAFETY
Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests. Take a mental note and do a last call at a scheduled time. Whenever you do this, take all alcohol away from 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 under age, 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.

References: National Crime Prevention Council, LAPD Crime Prevention Section, Parents.com & www.thecenter.ucla.edu/

Holidays and DWI Don’t Mix!

Through the percentage of alcohol-related fatalities in the state has decreased over the past few years, Texas continues to lead the nation in alcohol-related traffic fatalities. 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 messages 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. References: Texas Department of Transportation press release

Don’t Over Do It This Holiday
Be responsible with alcohol & don’t drink and drive

Photo: Google Images
Dealing With Finals: Be Prepared!

Pulling all-nighters with ten cups of coffee is not going to get you very far on test day. No one’s brain works well on limited sleep.

Remember to eat
It’s particularly important to remember to eat breakfast before morning finals.

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.

References: suite101.com, suite101.com

Lost or Found Items? Go to the UTSA Police Department!

Many in the UTSA community do not know that the UTSA Police Department has an official lost-and-found office to serve the university. The office is just inside the entrance to the Physical Plant Building on the left when you enter the lobby. The Physical Plant Building is between the tennis courts and the Laurel Village housing complex, North of the University Center.

The UTSA Police Department staff works hard to return property to its rightful owners; however, UTSA students, faculty and staff members can help ensure this is accomplished in a timely manner by turning in found items within 24 hours. The police department has resources for locating individuals and works hard to contact each and every one of them. Holding on to items can make a big difference to the people who lost them, such as not being able to get into their car or home.

If you or your co-workers find items and cannot come to the Physical Plant Building, call 210-458-6247 and a police staff member will be sent to pick up the items. Note that lost UTSA ID cards should be turned into the Business Auxiliary Services UTSACard office in Multidisciplinary Studies Building Room 1.01.52 or call 210-458-4639. At the Downtown Campus, turn in lost-and-found items to the Police Department at the Frio Street Building, Room 1.506; at the Institute of Texan Cultures, turn in items at the security desk.

For public health and safety reasons, the following items cannot be accepted at the lost-and-found office: blankets, broken items, cups, lunch bags, water bottles, thermoses, soiled items or clothing, and serving ware such as knives, forks and dishes.

Help spread the word about the lost-and-found office. Efforts to get found property to the UTSA Police Department are appreciated.

For more information, call 210-458-6247.

Employee Kudos: Recently a UTSA student lost her keys at the Downtown Campus and was looking for them all day. First Shift staff looked all over campus and could not find them. Later that afternoon, Guard Carrion came into the DTC substation and produced the missing set. When the student was informed the keys were found, she was almost in tears being so relieved that her keys were found. Guard Carrion did an outstanding job. Way to go!

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

This holiday season take a take a few minutes before you shop to think about your safety. Here are just a few tips to help keep you safer: Before shopping – Leave unnecessary credit cards at home & make a list of credit card numbers in the event they are stolen. During – Be alert and aware of your surroundings. If available, ask a security guard to walk you to your car, and avoid unnecessary time outside of your car. Happy Holidays from the Crime Prevention Unit “It’s a Team Thing”
Welcome to the UTSA Police Department:
Welcome to Willie Lowak as the new Access Control Assistant, to Police Officer II Ricardo Palacios and Guards Richard Shelton, Matthew Hunt, Carrington Phillips, and John Crunk. Also welcome to Kathy Valdez who is our new Admin person in Lost & Found.

Welcome to all!

Safety Highlights Lorenzo D. Sanchez, MPA (UTSA Director of Emergency Management)

Holiday Safety
’Tis the season! It’s that time of year to spread holiday cheer, but I want to make sure you know a few safety basics when getting ready to deck the halls. Remember, it’s everyone’s responsibility to engage in safe holiday activities at work and in your home. The UTSA Office of Emergency Management would like to share some tips to keep you in the know when decorating your workspaces and homes with holiday fun.

Caring for Your Tree - If buying a fresh tree, do not place close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree - Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Artificial Trees - If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Maintain Your Holiday Lights - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets - Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave lights on unattended.

Avoid Using Lit Candles - If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations - All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace - It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Finally, as in every season, make sure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly, and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help, and remember to practice your home or work evacuation/escape plan.

With these tips, you and your loved ones can be safe while having a jolly ‘ole time this holiday season. For more information on emergency preparedness, visit our website at www.utsa.edu/utsapd. Be safe.

Congratulations to Sgt. Charles Patnode, an 18 year veteran of the UT System Police and a veteran training coordinator at the UTSA PD, has been selected as the new Inspector and Training Coordinator for the UT System Police in Austin, Texas. Sgt. Patnode will bring with him the depth of experience, UTSP knowledge base, training skill sets and familiarity with TCLEOSE requirements and compliance that is needed in this particular position. Good luck and thanks for your service at UTSA!

Reference: Email from UTSP Director of Police

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

For this month’s edition of The RunnerBeat, I will explain how the UTSAPD investigations team begins to investigate crimes that are reported on campus. The first step in any investigation is conducted by the patrol officer who responds to the call. This is called a preliminary investigation. The officer will ask the reporting party certain questions which try to determine, what are called, solvability factors. To determine solvability factors, an officer may ask the reporting party: “do you know who did this?” “do you know the offender is now?”, or “are there any witnesses to what occurred?” The reporting officer may also determine that there is physical evidence left at the scene. The officer will either collect the evidence themselves or call a detective over to accomplish the task. This evidence is usually fingerprints or DNA left at the scene by the offender. This is another solvability factor.

Once the officer has completed his initial investigation, he or she will write a report and submit it to the UTSAPD records manager. The investigative Sergeant reviews all cases which are generated by the patrol officers and guards. Upon review, the Sergeant determines which cases need to be assigned to a detective for investigation. Once a case is assigned to a detective it then becomes a latent, or follow up investigation. The assigned detective will then prioritize the newly assigned case. Cases which contain solvability factors usually get the highest priority. However, even if there are no solvability factors, the assigned detective will perform a latent investigation to try and prosecute the offender.

I hope this sheds some light on how we begin to investigate crimes that occur on campus. Next month, I’ll touch on how the UTSAPD investigations team responds to and manages a crime scene.
**Schedule of Events For December 2011**

**Wednesday Dec. 7, 2011**  
*President’s Holiday Breakfast*  
Begins 9:00 am at UC III Ballroom  
President Ricardo and Dr. Harriett Romo invite you to celebrate the holidays at a breakfast.

**Wednesday Dec. 7, 2011**  
*Late Night Pancake Breakfast*  
9:00 pm at Roadrunner Café  
A UTSA tradition to show our students encouragement during Finals.

**Friday Dec. 9, 2011**  
*UTSAPD Promotion and Awards Ceremony*  
10:00 am at UC Bexar Rm  
UTSAPD will celebrate promotions and yearly awards to our staff.

**December 15, 16 & 17, 2011**  
*UTSA Commencement*  
Various times at Convocation Center  
Celebrate as UTSA graduates walk across the stage in recognition of their accomplishments.

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**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>
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<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bikes</td>
<td>Various Brands &amp; Colors</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cap</td>
<td>blue/green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Books/Binders/Folders/Spirals</td>
<td>Various Titles &amp; Brands</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Jewelry &amp; Watches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Backpacks</td>
<td>Various brands/colors</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Keys</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Pearland HS ID for Christine Chop</td>
<td>Belonging to Mercadise Nicole Lyons</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Umbrellas</td>
<td>Various Colors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Set of sticks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Plastic green/white school box filled with art supplies</td>
<td>No name</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Camera tripod</td>
<td>No name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Iron</td>
<td>No name</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pocket knife w/tips</td>
<td>No name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Bucket of change</td>
<td>No name</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Computer case (black)</td>
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<td>DVDs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Prescription glasses &amp; Sunglasses</td>
<td>Various Brands, Colors &amp; Styles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bag of lab coats &amp; goggles</td>
<td>No name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The UTSA Police Department wishes you and yours a joyful holiday season and best wishes for a happy New Year.**

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**Crime Report for the Month of November 2011**

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred as of November 25. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

- **Thefts = 21**  
  - Alcohol Arrests = 14
- **Burglary of Vehicle = 2**  
  - Drug Arrests = 7
- **Assaults = 2**  
  - DWI Arrests = 9
- **Theft of Motor Vehicle = 1**  
  - Other Crimes = 13

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

UTSA PD will escort you on campus after dark!

http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd (458.4242) or use the nearest blue phone  
“protecting your future... today”

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

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UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
Be Smart...Be Safe: Apple iPhone Theft Awareness

The iPhone is one of the most popular phones on the market today. It is impossible to go anywhere without seeing one glued to someone’s hand. This popularity, unfortunately, also makes it a hot target for thieves and makes for many stolen iPhones. Unfortunately, there has been an increase of iPhones reported stolen at UTSA. There are many things that can happen to a stolen iPhone. It can simply be used until the service is cancelled and then discarded, or it can be sold or attempted to be pawned.

There are some things you can do in advance if you know you will be in risky places to lose your phone such as a gym. First, know that your carrier will not rewrite iPhones. However, there are many third-party insurers that may. Companies such as GoCare, Asurion, Square Trade, BestBuy or AppleCare can insure your phone from between $59 to $180 a year. You can also download device locator apps such as Find My iPhone, Find My Mac, FoneHome or DeviceLocator. Turn On Passcode Lock: While it won’t prevent anyone from snatching your phone, it’ll keep your private information private. Record Your iPhone’s IMEI Number and Serial Number: Your iPhone’s IMEI number is a fifteen digit number and can be found on the back of your phone along with the serial number. Both are important to have when reporting a lost or stolen device.

When you discover that your iPhone has been stolen, dozens of thoughts race through your head all at once. Anger, worry and surprise are all likely to pop up. But there are things you can do to minimize the impact or even catch the thief. First, deactivate your phone immediately with the carrier. Then, file a police report. This may or may not directly lead to the recovery of your phone, but having documentation of the theft may help in dealing with cell phone and insurance companies. Apps such as LocateMyPhone photographs anyone who enters the wrong pass code when trying to use an iPhone with a front-facing camera. It then sends the photo, along with a map of the phone’s location, to an e-mail address.

Above all, prevention is the best protection. Keep you iPhone with you at all times. The more secure on your person the better. Don’t leave your iPhone charging in a hallway of an academic building or on the bleachers of the Rec Center when playing basketball. That is how most have been stolen on campus. Remember, Secure It Keep It!

UTSAPD Receives Reaccreditation from CALEA

The UTSA Police Department was reaccredited from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies during its fall conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. During the conference, review committee hearings were held as the final step in the process of law enforcement agencies seeking accreditation from CALEA. UTSAPD was first accredited in 2008. The CALEA accreditation process required a dedicated team to complete a comprehensive review of all department policies, procedures and operations. CALEA assessors recently made an on-site assessment which included a review of UTSAPD files, interviews with police department employees and a facilities inspection. The UTSAPD Accreditation Section consists of Lt. Robert Hudson and Mr. Gene Garcia. Formed in 1979, CALEA was created to set national performance standards that meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery. CALEA accreditation is consistent with UTSA’s strategic plan toward becoming a premier research institution. UTSAPD joins over 800 accredited law enforcement agencies in the United States.

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

Now that the holidays are here and the fall semester is quickly coming to a close, let’s remember to enjoy the season. This issue of Runner Beat provides a lot of tips to help you deal with finals week and also provides holiday tips on how to stay safe and avoid problems.

First of all you need to focus on your studies and get through finals week while not getting too stressed out. Congratulations to those of you who graduate this semester and we look forward to seeing everyone else in the Spring semester of 2012. Remember you can also experience stress over the holidays by trying to do too much or make everything perfect, so this year keep it simple and focus on spending time with family and friends, which is what is really important. You always hear people say that the holiday season goes by too fast each year. The key is to slow down, enjoy life and live in the now.

Be sure to stay safe during the holidays and most of all enjoy the season!