

**"Working Together
for a
Safer Community"**

Vacation Security

Hopefully, the following guidelines will provide you with a few ideas on how to make that long awaited vacation safer. We take vacations, *but crime does not.*

Before leaving, make sure that your home is secure. Leave your trip plans and emergency number with trusted neighbors or friends. Give your home an appearance of being lived in: use timers for lights and radios; have a neighbor or friend pick up mail, packages and newspapers; keep your lawns mowed and watered. Make sure that you have good locks on all doors and windows and, by all means, use them! Take advantage of Operation Identification and engrave your valuables with your California Drivers License Number (preceded by "CA") and post Operation I.D. stickers on entry doors and windows. NEVER leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower-pot, or in the ledge of a door.

While on the road, never carry large amounts of cash; use traveler checks. If you must carry large sums of money, do not display it openly. Keep a record of traveler's check numbers and your credit card numbers in a safe place. Have the telephone numbers to call in case your

checks or credit cards are lost or stolen. Be aware of your surroundings and never advertise your plans to strangers – this includes travel routes and the amount of cash you are carrying. Do not stop to offer help to a stranded motorist, go to the nearest phone booth and call for assistance. If your car breaks down, turn on emergency flashers or attach a white cloth to the car antenna. If someone stops to help, it is advisable that you stay in your locked car and ask them to call the Police Department or garage. If you must abandon your car, keep all passengers together.

Security for your automobile is something you should also think about. Always lock your car when entering or leaving it. Park in well lighted areas. Make sure to check the back seat before getting into your car. Mark your car radio and other removable car equipment with your California Drivers License number for identification. Always keep valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk. Always carry wallets, checkbooks and purses with you and try not to make it generally known that you are a tourist.

While out sight-seeing, plan your activities – planning reduces your chances of becoming the

victim of crime. Ask for directions at a hotel/motel on how to get to any attractions you may want to visit. Select your tour guides carefully.

Ask if there are any areas in town you should avoid. Stick to well-lighted main streets and public areas. Looking lost (stopping and looking at addresses or staring at street signs) may make you look like an easy target for crime. If you do get lost, find an open business and ask for directions. Only carry the cash you will need on your person and then only in small denominations. If older children go off separately, be sure they understand the importance of keeping close track of time and returning promptly at appointed hours.

**Paso Robles
Police Department**
900 Park Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Website: www.prcity.com

Business Line 237-6464

Emergency 911