

5. Avoid leaving any recently purchased presents, even if wrapped in Christmas paper, visibly stored in your vehicle at home or while out shopping. Remove any temptation that could foster criminal activity.
6. During the holiday season, more people are prone to depression. Friends and family should be monitored for unusual behavior. Seek professional intervention if necessary.
7. Do not drink and drive. Select a designated driver.
8. Remember those less fortunate. Consider volunteering in your community to make this a festive holiday season for all.



## OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



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The Oakland Housing Authority Police Department (OHAPD) is committed to providing the residents of the community excellent service. During the holiday season OHAPD would like to offer a few tips to help make it a safe and enjoyable one for our residents.

### **HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS**

The following information is designed to help you stay safe during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

If you are planning to go out of town for the holidays, here are a few tips to help safeguard against burglaries:

1. To make it appear that someone is home, set up automatic timers for interior lights. Alternating the times the lights turn on and off will make it impossible for would-be robbers to determine a pattern of when you are at home or when you are away.
2. Have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail. Contact your newspaper carrier and place the delivery on “vacation hold” until you return.
3. Place wooden dowels inside the window tracks to help prevent windows from being opened from the outside.
4. Be aware of unwanted telemarketers and of solicitors who are going door-to-door during this time of the year. Remember, do not provide your social security

number to anyone who calls asking for it. Instead, ask the caller to provide your number and tell them you will verify it if it is correct. Be aware that there may be no legitimate reason the caller would need this information.

5. Keep travel plans on a need-to-know basis with your neighbors. Do not tell all of your immediate neighbors you are going out of town. When loading your luggage, try to be inconspicuous and do it when there are not many people around.
6. Catalog all items of value in your residence in the event of a burglary. Take photographs of them and document their make, model, serial number, and worth. Engrave items of value with a predetermined identification number. This will make filing a police report easier and increase the probability of recovering your items.

### **THANKSGIVING**

If hosting Thanksgiving dinner at your residence, make sure that your appliances are functioning properly.

1. At a minimum, have on hand a fire extinguisher rated for A, B, & C. These fire extinguishers are commonly found in hardware stores in various sizes.
2. In the event of a fire, make sure that all exits are free of debris and large bulky items that may impede a quick and safe exit.

3. Create a safety plan to be used in case of an emergency, outlining evacuation procedures that include escape routes and a safe meeting place out of harm’s way.

### **HOLIDAY TREES AND LIGHTS**

1. Remember, if you purchase a live Christmas tree, keep it watered constantly to prevent it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
2. Turn off all holiday lights (especially on the tree) when you are away from home and when you go to bed to prevent electrical fires.
3. Keep pets away from tree lights because they can chew on electrical cords, causing a fire hazard and risking electrocution.
4. Read all instructional literature provided with electric lights and decorations to avoid electrical overloads.