



## Happy Holidays!

Keep the Holiday Celebration bright by remembering to include safety and security into your festive activities. Many crimes involve some degree of opportunity. A holiday vacation or shopping trip can provide opportunities for thieves - So read the tips below for a safe and joyous holiday season.

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### Holiday Safety Tips

Below are some general safety tips - please visit the link below for more!

#### Personal Safety:

- If shopping after dark, take a friend. Park in well-lighted & well-traveled areas.
- Be Alert! Look confident, walk with a purpose.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages.
- Lock the doors of your car, whether driving or parked.
- Keep keys in your hand when walking to your car or home.
- Be aware of your surroundings and anyone approaching you or your vehicle.
- Prevent identity theft by only carrying the cash and credit cards you will need.
- Avoid pick-pocketing by being alert in crowded shopping areas or on public transportation.

#### Property Safety:

- Keep all doors and windows locked in your home.
- Gifts and valuables should be kept out of sight and away from windows.
- If you are traveling, ask a neighbor to watch your house. If you have an alarm system, use it!
- Put timers on different lights throughout the interior and exterior of the house.
- Have newspapers, mail and deliveries held or picked up by someone you trust.
- Do not publicize that you will be out of town for the holidays on your answering machine or to others whom you don't know.
- Do not leave anything visible in your car; if you put items in your trunk, move your car to a different location.
- Contact SAFE for a Security Assessment of your home or business.
- Start a SAFE Neighborhood Watch group so that people on your block will recognize and report suspicious activities.

## Safety for Merchants:

- Be aware of all suspicious activities and persons in your establishment.
- Integrate crime prevention measures into the operations of your business.
- Know how to spot fraudulent money, checks and credit cards.
- Consider a Security Assessment or Retail Loss Prevention Training by one of SAFE's Business Security Specialists.
- Form a SAFE Business Watch group to share information and increase communication with the police department.

[Click Here for Holiday Safety Tips](#)

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## **Holiday Gifts!**

SAFE is hosting a  
**Sports Memorabilia Sale & Fundraiser**  
Just in time for the Holidays!

Need a perfect gift for the ultimate sports fan for the Holidays??? SAVE the Dates!!!

- **Tuesday, December 11th & Wednesday, December 12th**
- **8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**
- **At the SAFE Office - Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant St., Room 135.**

There will be many items available for all types of sports: baseball, football, tennis, golf and cycling - from signed pictures to other memorable items - featuring Brett Favre, Joe Montana, JT Snow, Tiger Woods, and more! All proceeds will benefit SAFE in our efforts to continue crime prevention education and public safety services citywide. For more information, call the SAFE Office at (415) 553-1984.

[Click Here for Sports Flyer](#)

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## **Crime Alerts**

Pursesnatching & Pickpocketing - A few Muni bus lines have experienced pickpocketing incidents, and there have been reports of pursesnatchings at bus stops. Be aware of your surroundings on crowded buses; only carry the cash and credit cards you need & think about carrying them somewhere close to your body as opposed to in your purse; for men, if you carry a wallet, put a rubber band around it to make it more difficult to get out of your pocket & consider carrying it in another pocket besides the back one! Remember - if your physical safety is threatened, your life is more important than your wallet or purse!

Car Break-Ins & Thefts - There have been numerous reports of auto boostings and thefts throughout the city, and also in enclosed and open garages and parking structures. It is important to remember to not leave anything visible in your vehicle (not even spare change!). If you park in a secured garage or lot, ensure that nobody follows you in while the entry is still open; and watch the gates completely close before leaving the area. This is the main way that intruders gain access to the garage of the building you live in or work in.

Click on the link below to access the District Police Stations, and sign up for your Captain's email newsletter, which contains various types of crimes that occur in the community.

[SFPD Stations](#)

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## Neighborhood Watch Success Stories!

We all know that neighbors who know each other are more likely to report suspicious and criminal activities and are more likely to create safer neighborhoods. Usually SAFE Neighborhood Watch groups are initially formed around a certain crime or quality-of-life issue. But once those concerns are addressed.... why stop there? SAFE believes in sustaining your Neighborhood Watch groups so that you can build closer, more cohesive communities. Read this example of a Neighborhood Watch group in action:

On November 7th at about 8:30 am, San Francisco experienced an oil spill when an 810-foot container ship weighing 65,131 tons, crashed into a tower of the Bay Bridge. The heavy-duty fuel oil washed up on beaches, leaving oily sheens on the water, oil deposits in the sand, and hundreds of injured or dead birds.

As officials and volunteers did their best to organize clean-up and bird rescue missions, a SAFE Neighborhood Watch group from the 1500 block of 47th Ave began their own efforts to organize and assist. Using their email network to communicate, notices and updates were sent out between neighbors.

Jamie Ray, director of SF ROMP (San Francisco Rescued Orphan Mammal Program) was busy that day handling the many birds that had been brought to the only licensed wildlife rehabilitation center in San Francisco. They worked to stabilize the birds by cleaning out nares (bird nostrils) and beaks, regulate temperatures and treat birds with oxygen when they were not able to breathe on their own. Jamie called her good friend across the Park, Maria Goodavage to ask if she and her neighbors could watch and patrol the beach for oiled birds and communicate with the rescue team. Maria quickly called on her fellow Neighborhood Watch group members to assist. Throughout the day messages were passed back and forth keeping everyone informed of what was happening out on Ocean Beach.

This serves as a great example of how Neighborhood Watch groups, specifically communication mechanisms, can really come in handy in emergency situations. SF SAFE commends the valiant efforts of this and other groups for reminding us that there is power in knowing your neighbors and working together.

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**Other SAFE News**

- **SAFE Receives Recognition Award!** - On Tuesday, November 20th, SAFE was a recipient of the 2007 Models of Hope Awards, and thanks to the efforts of SAFE's David Chan, we were recognized by the San Francisco Interfaith Council for our work in crime prevention and public safety.
- **SAFE has a Wishlist!** - As a non-profit continuing to maintain a high level of quality service, there are times when we wish we had a little something extra to make our services even more effective. New items to our wishlist include: Digital Camera for our Residential and Business Security Assessments; Color Printer for educational materials; Color toner for our existing printer; and office supplies. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law, and will be noted on SAFE's website and newsletter. Every little bit helps!
- **Calling all Neighborhood Watch Block Captains!** - SAFE will be hosting its first Block Captain meeting in early 2008. This will give all of our dedicated neighborhood leaders and Watch Groups a chance to share information, learn about new crime prevention and public safety issues, and network with other Block Captains to expand the scope of Neighborhood Watch groups citywide. Please email [cindy@sfsafe.org](mailto:cindy@sfsafe.org) with your updated information.

SAFE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. You can help us to provide essential crime prevention and public safety services by making a tax-deductible donation, either by check or clicking on the JustGive link below. Please check out our website, [www.sfsafe.org](http://www.sfsafe.org), for updates and information! Thank you for helping us to create safer neighborhoods!

**DONATE**  
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Happy Holidays!  
--The Staff and Board of SAFE

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