

Scales

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It's the Holiday Season...

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips

- While Shopping
- In Parking Lots
- At Home
- For Students

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips While Shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Shop with a friend, there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit or debit card.
- If possible, carry only your driver's license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.

- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.

- Do not carry a wallet in a back pocket. It should be placed in a front pocket of your pants for safety.

- Be alert that crooks look for the "high dollar" shopping bags with your purchases. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain nondescript bag.

- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; bags can easily be switched or taken.

- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost as well as "Stranger Danger".

- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages. Use store's package pick-up.

- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.



By staying alert and following a few crime prevention tips, one can ensure a holiday season that is both safe and secure.

- If you do return to your vehicle to unload purchases, place them in the trunk of the vehicle.
- Try not to shop until the store closes. Remember, fewer people are present at this time.

What to Do if a Client's Identity Has Been Stolen

Defend Against Identity Theft As Soon As Suspected

If a client comes to you with concerns about identity theft, it is best to offer them the following steps:

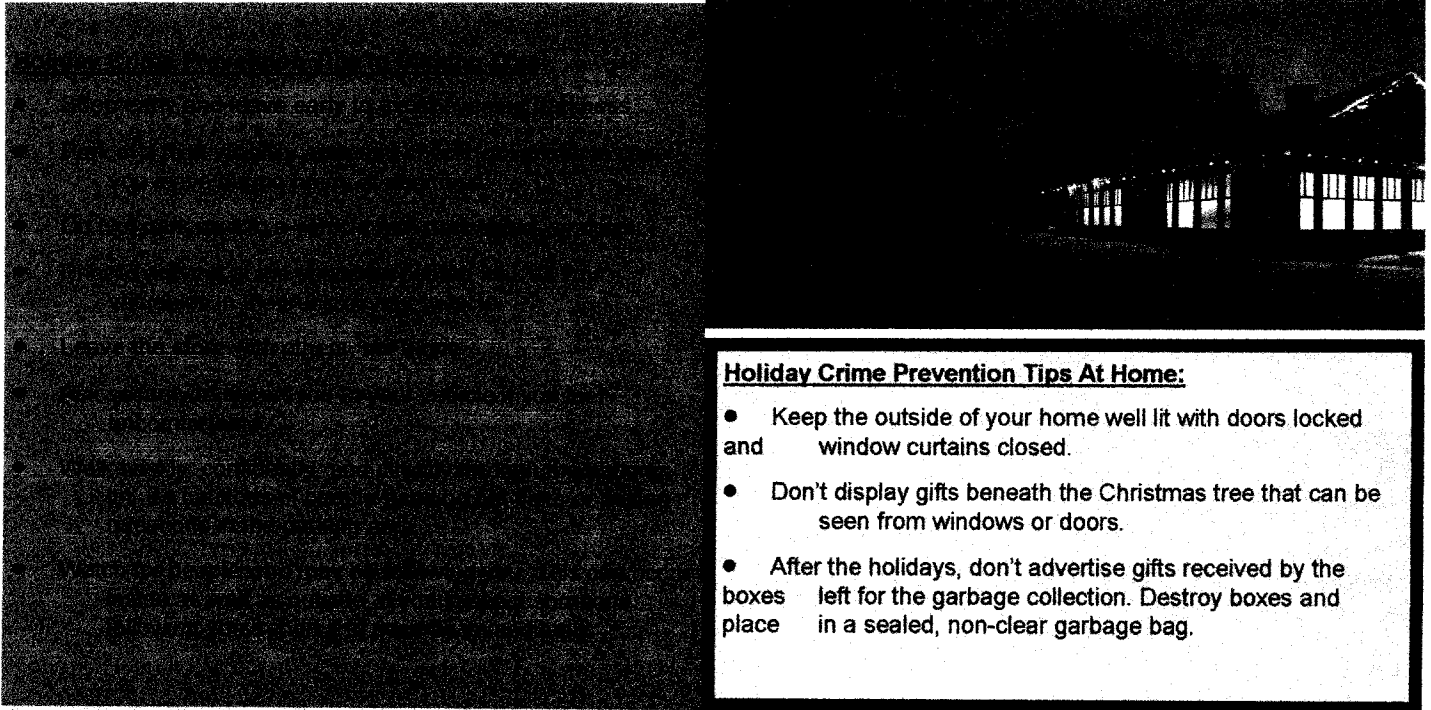
1. **Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports, and review the reports carefully.**

The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or

make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert; a call to one company is sufficient.

Continued on Page 3

Holiday Crime Prevention Tips Continued...



Holiday Crime Prevention Tips At Home:

- Keep the outside of your home well lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don't display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don't advertise gifts received by the boxes left for the garbage collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear garbage bag.

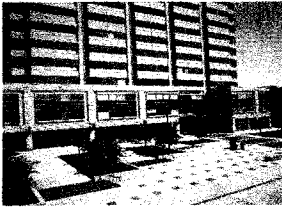
Holiday Crime Prevention Tips For Students:

During the Holiday break between semesters, many students will be leaving their residence hall, apartment or home for an extended period of time. Here are some helpful tips for students to remember before leaving for the holidays.

- Make sure all doors and windows are properly secured.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Consider taking all items of "high value" back to your primary residence; money, jewelry, TV, VCR, stereo, computer.
- If you choose to leave items of "high value," make sure that you have recorded the serial numbers. It is recommended that you mark or engrave your property with your drivers license, so that it can be identified as your property.
- Large displays of valuables should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Check with your local police department to see if they provide "close patrol" services for unattended residences during the holiday season.
- If you leave your vehicle parked on campus or at your residence during the holiday break, remember to:
 - Park your vehicle in an area that is visible to the public and well lit at night.
 - Secure all doors and windows
 - Remove all valuables or secure them out of sight.
 - If your vehicle has a built-in security, use it.
- When leaving for a holiday or vacation, do not pack your car the night before. It only makes a more attractive target for a thief.

New Office!

On December 1st, 2006, MGCVC moved into an office at 2332 Lexington Avenue North, in Roseville, Minnesota 55113. Our phone number remains the same: (612) 940-8090.



Please feel free to stop in during office hours (subject to change):

Monday 10:00-5:00

Also, MGCVC has a new website, which is being updated frequently.

Please visit at:

www.mgcvc.com

Responding to Identity Theft Continued...

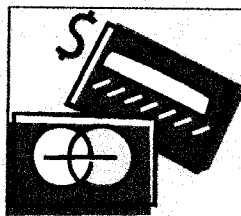
Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit reports.

Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain.

2. Close accounts.

Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently.

Call the security or fraud departments of each company where an account was opened or changed without your okay. Follow up in writing, with copies of supporting documents.



Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian: 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Keep copies of documents and records of your conversations about the theft.

3. File a police report.

File a report with law enforcement officials to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime.

Use the ID Theft Affidavit at ftc.gov/idtheft to support your written statement.

Ask for verification that the disputed account has been closed and the fraudulent debts discharged.

4. Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission.

Your report helps law enforcement officials across the country in their investigations.

Online: ftc.gov/idtheft

By phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TTY, 1-866-653-4261

By mail:

Identity Theft Clearinghouse,
Federal Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20580

To learn more about ID theft and how to deter, detect, and defend against it, visit ftc.gov/idtheft. Or request copies of ID theft resources by writing to:

Consumer Response Center
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, H-130

Letter from the Executive Director: HELP IMPACT YOUR PROGRAMS FUTURE

With many focusing on mid-year reporting and settling down for the holidays, it's important to remind you that the legislative session is just around the corner.

Just last week, I met with both the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women to discuss a unified approach for legislative action. However, without hearing from the Programs themselves, I'm unable to fully understand the needs and desires of our membership.

Please think about areas in the law in which you believe victims rights are being comprised or overlooked, and forward any ideas on. Please remember that the Coalition is here to represent its members and to work for positive change as it relates to general crime victims and their rights. Allow me to champion for change this legislative session, so that your time and energy can be spent assisting victims. I look forward to hearing from all of you and working tirelessly at the legislature this session.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nodes

Executive Director, MGCVC

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We're On the Web!!
www.mgcvc.com

MGCVC EXISTS TO HELP!

In the early 1990's, several crime victim service providers around the state began meeting informally for the purpose of providing support and to share knowledge and resources with each other. Fro this group of dedicated individuals, the need was identified to become more organized in their efforts. Out of this need, the Minnesota General Crime Victim Coalition was born and was incorporated in 1993. For the first years, MGCVC operated only with volunteer help, then in 1998 an Executive Director was hired. Today's membership includes around 70 members from all areas of victim services: community-based programs, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation agencies. We are working together by "joining hands across Minnesota" to better assist victims and further their rights statewide.

Minnesota General Crime Victim Coalition
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Roseville, MN 55113