

## **Holiday Safety Tips from the Parker Police Department**

The Holiday Season is upon us and the Parker Police Department would like to provide a few safety tips that will assist everyone to have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Remember there are Grinch's (thieves) out and about but you don't have to play in their reindeer games. Please contact the Police Department for additional safety precautions or to report suspicious activity.

### **Parking Lots:**

- Always park where there is plenty of light between your car and the store.
- Before leaving your vehicle, make sure there isn't anything of value in sight such as cell phones or holiday purchases and always LOCK your car.
- When walking through parking lots be aware of your surroundings especially of anyone who is standing or walking in the area close to your parked car.
- Have your keys in hand as you approach your car.

### **Shopping:**

- If you choose to shop online, stick with established retailers and retailers from our local community with a presence online. Shopping locally is good for the local economy and more secure.
- Shop with friends or relatives; there is safety in numbers.
- Never leave your purse unattended (even for a few seconds) in your cart.
- Use debit cards to avoid carry large sums of cash.
- If you chose to use credit cards make sure you secure them after each use.

### **Shopping with Children:**

- Always keep an eye on your children in public places and accompany young children to the restroom.
- Teach young children to go for help if they get separated from you. Teach them to look for a cashier or uniformed security guard.

### **At Home:**

- Don't display your gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- Lock doors and windows when you leave the house.
- Use only UL-listed extension cords, lights and Christmas ornaments. Don't overload outlets or electrical boxes.

### **Driving:**

- When celebrating away from home, don't drink and drive, choose a designated driver before heading out.
- If possible, avoid driving during the early and late evening hours on Christmas and New Years.
- Protect yourself and passengers by wearing a safety belt at all times.