



BLOCK WATCH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

Fall is upon us and winter is right around the corner. Winter driving is very different than driving in the warmer months for obvious reasons. Following are a list of simple tips to consider for your safety during the winter driving season.

Prepare your vehicle and drive safe.

- Prepare your vehicle for inclement weather. Maintain a variety of safety supplies such as: flares, blanket, empty gas container, sand, fire extinguisher, and other necessary safety items. Also be sure your spare tire is “ready” for use.
- Remember your back to basic driving skills: wear your seat belt, lights on, allow proper following and braking distance, use turn signals.
- If road conditions are treacherous, please stay home.

With the fall and winter months come the Holidays. Homes and shopping malls spill over with gifts and holiday decoration displays. Distracted shoppers rush around, stressed out, careless, and forgetful. Homes are left empty in the great homeward-bound holiday migration. This holiday season; don’t let the holiday spirit move you to leave your home and your wallet open to opportunistic thieves. Follow these simple tips for ensuring a crime free holiday season.

Don’t shop til’ you drop.

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Take a friend along when doing your holiday shopping.
- Park in a well-lighted area, close the windows, and lock your car.
- Try not to leave packages, boxes and shopping bags visible through the car windows. Lock them in the trunk.
- Don’t get overburdened with packages; always keep one hand free.
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling. Put your wallet in your front pant pocket.
- Teach your children to go to the store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you.

When shopping online, use common sense to protect against fraud or ID theft.

- Only shop with companies you know.
- Keep your personal information private, and keep your password secure.

Make sure you don't invite crime home for the holidays.

- Never display gifts where they can be seen through windows or doors.
- Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts, if you're not sure; ask for ID and call their office to verify employment.
- The holidays are a good time to update or start inventory of your home.
- Take photos or make a video of items and list description and serial numbers.

When you travel, be sure to pack your common sense.

- Always lock doors and windows when you leave, even for a few minutes.
- Stop all mail and suspend all deliveries, or arrange for a trusted neighbor to take in your mail, newspapers, and other deliveries.
- Use timer lights to make your house look lived in.
- Don't leave packages, luggage, cameras, or purses in the car where they can be seen.
- Use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash.
- Put valuables in the hotel safe, or hide them in a secure place.
- Always lock balcony doors.

IN THE LOOP:

We have compiled a list of reported burglaries and vandalism in the City of Post Falls. Along with any pertinent information you may need to be aware of. We have provided a map labeling the four "districts" within the city of Post Falls on our website. Go to the Community Services link, then go to Block Watch and click "district map". In the months of July, August, September and through October 12th the following incidents were reported.

District #1= listed 9 auto burglaries, 6 residential burglaries, 1 non residential burglary, and 2 vandalism reported.

District #2 = listed 22 auto burglaries, 16 residential burglaries, 3 non residential burglaries, and 26 vandalism reported.

District #3 = listed 10 auto burglaries, 8 residential burglaries, 3 non residential burglaries, and 19 vandalism reported.

District #4= listed 12 auto burglaries, 5 residential burglaries, 3 non residential burglaries, with 21 vandalisms reported.

If you see anything out of the ordinary, have questions, or concerns please call the Post Falls Police Department (208) 773-3517 or come see us at 1717 E Polston Ave, Post Falls ID.