



# Abbotsford Police Department

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*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### APD NEWS RELEASE:

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### Incident: Holiday Safety and Crime Prevention Tips

**Abbotsford – December 2, 2009.**

The Abbotsford Police Department would like to offer the following Holiday Safety and Crime Prevention Tips:

#### Prevention Tips at Home

- Ensure doors and windows are secured and use secondary locks such as deadbolts and window pins.
- The holidays increase the contact from charities, take the time to investigate those that you are unsure about and ask for identification from any stranger that presents themselves at your door.
- Remember that with your kids off school they will be using the computer and accessing social networking sites more than usual. You should always be vigilant in ensuring that they are safe. Cyber scams and predators do not take holidays.
- Although an abundance of presents under your tree may look appealing, it would be better to place them there closer to your gift opening date. Keep them out of view of windows and doors until you are ready to open and exchange them.

#### Prevention Tips for Holiday Shopping

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Park in well lit areas.
- Lock your vehicle and keep valuables out of sight.
- Carry small amounts of cash and never leave your purse or wallet unattended in shopping carts or on counters when completing purchases.
- If you return to your vehicle with packages and plan to continue shopping, secure the items in your trunk and move your vehicle.

*Our Mission:  
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*

## **Holiday Parties**

- If you will be hosting a party establish a guest list and greet your guests at the door. Be careful of opening your home to uninvited guests.
- If you are serving liquor, do it responsibly. Have non-alcoholic alternatives and emphasize these as the party winds down.
- Do not let a guest drive if they have had too much to drink. Create contingencies such as safe rides home or guest beds as part of your party plans.
- Do not drink and drive yourself! If you attend a party, make a plan in advance if you plan of having a drink. Have another plan if you indulge when you original plan was to abstain.
- Make use of safe ride home programs such as Operation Red Nose.

## **Prevention Tips when Driving**

- Recognize that the holidays can be a stressful and busy time. Give yourself more time and be prepared to deal with slower traffic movement and more people around shopping areas and on the roads at certain times of the day.
- Prepare for winter driving conditions and make sure your vehicle is equipped with cold weather emergency supplies.
- Minimize distractions while driving. Avoid using your cell phone and eating while driving. You aren't saving time you are increasing the likelihood of causing an accident.
- Buckle up. That includes passengers and children too.

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