



## Christmas Crime Prevention Messages 2-4

Personal safety is paramount but can easily be forgotten at this time of year with all the distraction the Christmas holidays can bring. Here are some tips on keeping yourself safe.

### Protect your personal possessions

- ❖ Keep your phones/bags/purses/wallets/iPods/cameras out of sight – do not advertise your stuff.
- ❖ Watch out for people approaching you when sat at a table, say at a coffee shop. A common technique is to ask for directions and use the cover of a map or newspaper to take your valuables from the table.
- ❖ Register your property on the Immobilise website.
- ❖ Visit the [Protect Your Property from Thieves page](#).

### In pubs and clubs

- ❖ Look after your friends. Don't let them go off on their own if they're drunk.
- ❖ Think about how you're going to get home. For example, pre-book a taxi or arrange a lift with a designated driver. Let someone know about your plans – and tell them if they change.
- ❖ Never leave your drink unattended.
- ❖ Steer clear of trouble. If you see any trouble or suspect that it might be about to start, keep clear. The best thing you can do is avoid it and alert the police.

### On foot

- ❖ Stay alert, look confident and act confidently.
- ❖ Cover up jewellery, mobile phones and iPods and keep your bag close to your body.
- ❖ Never hitchhike.
- ❖ Take sensible precautions if walking alone in the dark. For example, try to stick to well-lit busy streets and be vigilant. Plan your route ahead.
- ❖ Walk facing oncoming traffic so a car cannot pull up behind you.
- ❖ If you regularly go walking or jogging, vary your route.
- ❖ Avoid wearing headphones or using your mobile phone while walking or jogging.
- ❖ When going to your car or home, have your keys ready at hand.
- ❖ If you think you're being followed, walk to the busiest place you can find or knock on a door. Then call the police.
- ❖ If you are attacked, shout for help as loudly as you can or shout for someone to contact the police. Use your personal attack alarm. Try to get to a safe place and call the police.
- ❖ If someone attempts to take something from you, consider letting them have it rather than risk being hurt.