



NEWS RELEASE

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Holiday Safety Tips from the Prosper Police Department

PROSPER (December 2, 2010) The holiday season is often a joyous time of giving, sharing and spending time with family and friends. This time of year may also be marked by a higher crime rate, according to Prosper Assistant Police Chief Gary McHone.

The Prosper Police Department offers the following tips to help residents have a safe and happy holiday season.

At home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when leaving home, even for a few minutes.
- Do not display holiday gifts where they may be seen from a window or doorway.
- Store gifts away before you go on a holiday trip. Also, test smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on your holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good order.
- Don't leave lights on overnight or when you are away from home.

While shopping:

- Do your shopping before dark if possible.
- Try to coordinate shopping trips with a friend.
- Do not park in a poorly lit parking lot or area, no matter how convenient it may seem.
- Lock packages in your vehicle's trunk or out of sight if your vehicle does not have a trunk.
- Keep your car doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- When possible, pay with a credit or debit card or a check.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. Children should never go into a parking lot alone.

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“The holiday season is also time of year when people come together and enjoy each other's company. If you’re hosting a holiday party, have non-alcoholic beverages available for your guests. Also have alternative transportation available for intoxicated persons. Do not let your guests to drink and drive,” he advised.

“By following these few basic tips, you should have a safer and happier holiday season” he said.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 9,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper’s vision is to remain a “Place Where Everyone Matters.”