

DPS Holiday Safety Information

As the holiday season approaches, crimes against people and property traditionally increase across the country. Police around the country often handle reports of an increase of pick pocketing and thefts from autos and buildings. In order to make your holiday joyous and safe, the Brown University Department of Public Safety offers the following suggestions and safety tips:

Travel Safety

Whether you're traveling by car, train, plane or bus, be aware of your surroundings and remember these travel safety tips:

- * Before leaving campus for winter break, verify that your room door and window(s) are closed and locked. Document everything that is in your room with a camera. Photographs of your valuables are a great resource in the event that you discover something missing upon your return. Small items of value such as jewelry, iPods and laptops should be brought home. Contact Public Safety at 863-3322 in the event you return to find missing property.
- * Check with your airline, bus or train service to make sure your transportation is running on schedule so you're not waiting for a long period of time. Make sure you have your photo ID and passports available to be checked.
- * If you need to have a carry-on luggage, pack only what is necessary. If in doubt, don't pack it. Check as much baggage as possible to keep your hands free. Do not wrap presents in preparation for security inspections.
- * Ensure baggage, carry-on luggage and purses are free from any items that may be considered a weapon. Do not accept packages from anyone you do not know. Keep your luggage under your control until you check it in with the baggage handlers.
- * Always notify family/friends of your travel route, itinerary, expected time of arrival or any schedule changes. If possible, carry a fully charged mobile phone in case of an emergency.
- * While waiting for your bus, train, or plane, wait near other travelers. If the immediate area is deserted or dark, stand near an occupied building or in a lighted area. If traveling alone on a bus, sit as close to the driver as possible.

Shopping Safety

- * Carry a minimal amount of credit cards and avoid carrying large sums of cash.
- * Use ATM machines that are in well-lit and safe environments. During this time of the year pickpockets will loiter around ATM's in the mall looking for people making large cash withdrawals. Don't count your money at the ATM machine.
- * If you stop for a bite to eat, be especially aware of your wallet or handbag. Don't leave handbags or shopping bags behind you. Place them in front of you where you can see them.
- * *Be aware of your surroundings.* Call Brown DPS (863-3322 or 4111) if you observe any suspicious behavior.

Vehicle Safety

- * Never leave items in your vehicle that are visible to the public. During this time of the year thieves usually walk around looking for vehicles that have items such as gifts, computers, and other valuables that are visible. Stow all items in the trunk of your vehicle where they are not visible.

- * Park your vehicle in a well lit area and be cognizant of your surroundings. If you see something suspicious don't get out of your vehicle. Park at another location and call the police with your observations.

Please visit the links below for Brown winter closing information and travel safety information.

http://www.reslife.brown.edu/announcements/winter_closing.html

<http://www.providnceri.com/transportation/transportation.html>

The entire DPS staff would like to thank you for being our partners in safety and wish you a joyous and safe holiday season.

Colonel Mark J. Porter
Chief of Police
Phone: 401-863-3870
Mark_Porter@brown.edu