

Cold Weather Safety Tips

Article courtesy of the Prairie Village Police Department

As it gets colder and darker outside, we tend to think less of safety and more of how to simply stay warm. Now is not the time to let your guard down -- here are some tips to help keep you safe during the cold weather.

- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended. Not only is it an ordinance violation, it takes only a few seconds for a thief to steal an unlocked, running vehicle.
- Do not park on the street when a big snow is forecast to allow the street crews room to remove snow.
- Avoid taking large boxes out to the curb. Cut the boxes up and turn the labels inside out so no one knows what was in the box. Leaving a large flat screen TV, Wii, computer, or laptop box on the curb tells everyone who drives by what there is to steal in your home.

If you are traveling:

- Call the Police Department for a house watch on your residence. Cancel paper, mail and any other regular deliveries to the home.
- Set timers on lights, radios, or TVs to give the appearance someone is home and moving around the residence.
- Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your home while you are away.
- Ask a neighbor to make tire tracks in the driveway when it snows to give the appearance someone is home.
- Do not post your travel plans on social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, or Twitter. You want only people you trust knowing when your home will not be occupied.

Please take a few minutes of your time now to help safeguard your home and your family and have a safe winter season. If you have any questions, or comments, contact Crime Prevention Officer Matt Boggs at mboggs@pvkansas.com or 913/385-4613.