



Castro Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

Watch Out For:

- ☆Car Break-ins or Stolen Vehicles
- ☆Pickpockets & Stolen Purses
- ☆Robberies (strong-arm or with weapons)
- ☆Credit Card Thefts (esp. @ cash register)
- ☆On-Line Scams (identity or password theft, fake prizes, stolen items, etc.)
- ☆Home Burglaries and Break-ins
- ☆Assaults & Hate Crimes

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Holiday Safety Details

As in any large city, criminals in the Castro occasionally prey on shoppers who are distracted and carrying packages. Take extra care.

Theft from Autos

Vehicle break-ins are the most common crime in the Castro. A "smash and grab" takes just seconds, but can cost a lot.

- ☆Don't leave any valuables visible in your vehicle—even loose change or sunglasses can result in an expensive broken window.
- ☆Store new packages in your trunk and move your vehicle each time you do so, as thieves are sometimes watching.
- ☆Remove your GPS and holder—these are common targets.
- ☆Avoid parking in areas with broken auto-glass as break-ins often occur in clusters.

Robbery

Most robbers want valuables and a quick get-away. They don't usually want to hurt you unless you fight back.

- ☆Limit the cash and credit cards you carry to what you really need.
- ☆Carry some cash separate from your wallet/purse to give them.
- ☆Give up your valuables. Only fight back if they seem intent on hurting you. You can replace things, but not yourself.

Assault

If they threaten harm, try apologizing, placating them, giving them anything to avoid a physical confrontation. If it becomes physical:

- ☆Try to run away as soon as possible. Head to a well lit or populated area or a store. Look for "Stop The Violence" posters.
- ☆Blow your safety whistle with 3 blasts or shout "I don't know you, leave me alone." Point at and tell someone to "Call 911".
- ☆Defend yourself physically if you feel able to, but get away as soon as an opportunity appears.
- ☆Call 911 as soon as you are in a safe place.

Victim or Witness: Be Observant, Call 911 Immediately

Always report crimes as soon as possible, so the police can identify trouble areas. Be prepared to go to court and testify if needed. As a community we look after ourselves, look after our friends, and look after our neighbors. Be ready to tell the 911 operator:

- ☆Number of people who were involved and their roles
- ☆Height, weight, race, general appearance, color and style of hair
- ☆License number of vehicle(s)
- ☆Direction of escape and method (foot, car, bicycle, etc.)