



City of
Los Banos
At the Crossroads of California

LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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November 28, 2012

Los Banos Police Department Offers Holiday Safety Tips

With the Holiday season upon us the Los Banos Police Department would like to remind everyone of several easy ways to keep your family and your belongings safe. Please share these Holiday Safety Tips with family, friends and neighbors.

At Home:

- Be extra cautious about locking your doors and windows, even if you are only leaving for a few minutes.
- Do not place gifts near front windows or in areas where they are easily visible from the street.
- Be aware of strangers coming to your home. If you don't recognize the visitor, keep the door locked and speak with them without opening your door.
- Do not leave empty boxes from valuable or highly sought after gifts on the street for the garbage collector. This gives burglars a good idea of what's inside your home. Break the boxes down or cut them up before discarding them.
- Document the serial numbers of all your valuable items and keep them in a safe place

While Shopping:

- If possible, coordinate your shopping trips with friends and family members.
- Do not park your vehicle in areas that are poorly lit.
- Make sure your valuables are stored in your trunk. Never leave valuables inside your car or in an area visible to the public.
- Have your keys in your hand when going out to your car.

- Put wallets in front pants pockets and carry your purse under your arm with the strap around your shoulder.
- Don't carry a lot of cash.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Consider asking mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Driving:

- Keep your doors locked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Always wear your seatbelt and obey the speed limit.

“This holiday season, we are planning extra enforcement efforts and the public can expect to see an increase in patrols around local shopping areas. Our goal is that everyone will have a fun and safe end of the year.”

-Ray Reyna, Police Commander

To leave an anonymous crime tip call **209-827-7070 Ext. 288**. If you have access to a computer and the internet you can also leave an anonymous tip at the Police Departments web page at www.losbanos.org. At the bottom of the “Contact” page simply click on the “report graffiti and other crime” link or visit the Merced Area Crime Stoppers by telephone at 1-855-725-2420, or at www.mercedareacrimestoppers.org

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