

Happy Holidays from the Office of Research Security!!!!

Janine Wilson is ready for Christmas, are you?



Are you on Santa's (aka April's) Naughty list or Nice list?
Santa believes there are some that are on the Naughty list, if you haven't completed your 2021 Annual Security Refresher Trainings.

Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season!

Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

While many will choose to stay home this year, if you do travel, be sure your vehicle is in good running condition, get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. Traveling by car during the holidays has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. In 2020, it is estimated 163 people died on New Year's Day, 485 on Thanksgiving Day, and for Christmas Day, it is estimated 340 lost their lives, according to [Injury Facts](#). Alcohol impairment is involved in about a third of the fatalities.

Stay safe on the roads over the holidays— and every day:

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid drowsy driving
- Leave early, planning ahead for heavy traffic
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance traveled
- Put that cell phone away; many distractions occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit
- Practice defensive driving
- Designate a sober driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription and illegal drugs can cause impairment

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

Extra precautions need to be taken when shopping during the holiday season. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Don't leave purchased gifts in plain view — lock them in your trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Only bring credit cards you plan to use.

Check your bank statements regularly during the season to spot suspicious activity.

Watch Out for Fire-Starters

Candles and Fireplaces

Use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations in many homes during the holidays, means more risk for fire.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles and that two of every five decoration fires happen because the decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of children.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet, out of reach of children.
- Use flameless, rather than lighted, candles near flammable objects
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Use a screen on the fireplace at all times when a fire is burning
- Never leave candles or fireplaces burning unattended or when you are asleep
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year



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