

## Twelve Days of Christmas – Crime Prevention Campaign

Nothing can ruin the Christmas spirit faster than becoming a victim of crime, so here are the 12 days of crime prevention tips.

What we are doing at Safe Communities Portugal is launching our Twelve Days of Christmas – Crime Prevention Campaign. Based on the song “Twelve Days of Christmas”, the Campaign will feature crime prevention tips on our Facebook page starting 13<sup>th</sup> December (rather the traditional start date which is 25<sup>th</sup> December), and on KissFm Radio with full information on our website.

So let's get started.

### 1st Day – House security

On the first day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent to me, advice about my Christmas lights and not to feed my extension leads through partially open windows as thieves know to look for this vulnerability.



Burglaries is one of the most common crimes, and in many cases are a result of opportunistic thieves gaining access through open or unlocked doors and windows. Good home security measures are simple: Install and use key operated locks on doors and windows, don't place keys under door mats or in obvious places.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Day – Crowded places

On the second day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent to me helpful information when shopping and in crowded places. When shopping carry your bag over your shoulder, ensure it is tucked under your arm and never leave your bag in the shopping trolley. If someone bumps in to you, check to see if your valuables are still there. Be alert, especially in crowded spaces or when people invade your personal space

### 3rd Day – Alcohol consumption

On the third day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent me a reminder regarding drinking in moderation – It is easier said than done however when you drink more alcohol than usual you can lose your inhibitions and act out of character which in itself could present you with a dangerous situation. Keeping your wits about you will decrease the risk of crime.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Day – Safe Driving

On the fourth day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent to me some great tips concerning Safe Driving. Remember the following when driving, namely: fasten seat belts and child restraints; don't speed, become distracted through use of mobile phones and never drink and drive.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Day – Going out**

On the fifth day of Christmas “Safe Communities “ sent to me some useful advice concerning security of my property when going out at night: keep your curtains and window blinds closed at night, making sure valuable items are out of sight as thieves go window shopping too.

Please don't openly display your Christmas tree and gifts in the front window so it's easily visible from the street.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Day - Vehicles**

On the sixth day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent to me a reminder that to reduce thefts from vehicles that I should secure my parcels and gifts in the boot of my car when parked in public places and keep all valuables out of sight. Police recommend that you remove temptation by always locking doors and closing windows when your vehicle is unattended. Theft from vehicles is the highest crime in Portugal.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Day – Planning ahead**

On the seventh day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent me a great tip, that if you are going away over Christmas – plan ahead!

Don't advertise it on any social media as this lets burglars know when your house is going to be empty. Arrange for someone to collect the mail and junk from your letterbox.

Ask a neighbour or friend to park in the driveway to help create the impression someone is home. Use a timer to turn on and off light or a television/radio.

Do not to leave telephone answering machine messages saying you are away.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Day - ATMs**

On the eighth day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent me useful guidance, to beware of people standing near you when using an ATM machine; protect your PIN number and never count your cash in view of other people! Also check if the ATM has been interfered with and never accept offers from strangers on how to use the machine! Best use ATM's inside banks and shopping malls.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Day – Expensive items**

On the ninth day of Christmas “Safe Communities” sent a message to me a reminder, to not to pile up empty gift boxes from Santa in my driveway as burglars appreciate knowing that you have expensive gifts inside for them to steal.

Break them down and take to the rubbish collection bins. Make sure you have not to leave receipts inside and your address is not on the packaging.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Day - Scammers**

On the tenth day of Christmas "Safe Communities" sent to me some guidelines to be aware of scammers.

There are several scams to be wary of, including unexpected money or winnings, fake charities, dating and romance, fake buying or selling offers, jobs and investments, attempting to gain personal information, remote access scams and threats and extortion. Do not click on links or open attachments from people you do not know.

### **11<sup>th</sup> Day - Businesses**

On the twelfth day of Christmas "Safe Communities" sent to me some great tips regarding security of cash for businesses over the holiday period. With higher takings for bars and restaurants, ensure there is more than one staff member securing the premise late at night; cash is deposited at the bank regularly using variable routes and that deposit arrangements are only known to as few people as possible

### **12<sup>th</sup> Day**

On the twelfth day of Christmas "Safe Communities" sent to me, a message wishing me A Very Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year.

David Thomas

President

Safe Communities Portugal

12<sup>th</sup> December 2019