

Merrillville Police Department  
7820 Broadway  
Merrillville, In 46410  
219-769-3722

## **Holiday Travel Tips:**

*Be Safe on the Road and Around the House this Holiday*

### **Around the House**

- If you haven't already done so, get some family help in gathering up items in the yard that need to be stored. Don't make it any easier for casual thieves.
- Remember to use your locks – on all doors and windows – even if you'll “only be gone a minute” or “just down the block.” It doesn't take long for a crook to take advantage.
- If you haven't already done so, check your smoke detector before the cooking starts.
- Make sure a trusted neighbor is keeping an eye on the place if you go away – picking up mail and papers, checking around your home. Put some lights on timers and keep shades and drapes in normal positions.
- Be sure guests know how to operate locks and that they help keep doors and windows appropriately secured.

### **On the road**

- If you're traveling by car, remember to “lock up, roll up, and look around,” Keep all doors locked, all windows rolled up, and yourself alert to your surroundings at all times.
- Be sure you carry only the cash and credit cards you absolutely need. Keep your possessions under your control at all times.

### **Holiday Shopping**

- Going shopping right after Thanksgiving? Take only what you need in your purse or wallet, and keep a tight hold on it. Carry purses closed and snugly against your body; carry wallets in front pants or coat pocket. Pick-pockets are out this time of year looking for holiday cash. Don't let it be yours!
- Review with children your family's rules for shopping safety and whose houses they can visit. Talk about what they should do if your family is away from home and they get lost. Remind them that they are never to eat treats given to them by strangers unless you have checked it out first.