

EFFECTIVE BUSINESS SECURITY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

We know that the holidays are a busy time for local businesses, but it can lead to even greater opportunities for thieves. The Minneapolis Police Department would like to offer some business security tips for you to have a *safe and prosperous Holiday Season!*



- **Always greet customers.** Criminals are less likely to commit a crime if they think they can be identified.
- **Prosecute and trespass shoplifters.** Thieves share amongst themselves which stores don't prosecute or trespass, which can make the store be a target. Charges can be increased for repeat trespassers. More info: <http://conta.cc/1kGGPSK>
- **Know how to use your surveillance system.** If you are the victim of a theft or robbery, a good surveillance system may help police identify and arrest the suspects. Make sure employees know how to export videos/pictures or who to call. It's important that the video/images get to the police department for investigative purposes.
- **Have a security plan with your employees.** Remind all your employees to call **911** if they witness suspicious activity in or around the business.
- **Always have at least 2 people working in the store if possible.** Having at least 2 employees, especially at open and closing times, provides additional safety.
- **Local business ordinance states no more than 30% of storefront windows may be obscured.** A clear view between those inside and outside the store increases the safety for everyone and allows passersby to call 911 if help is needed.
- **Have good lighting both inside and outside of your business.** Check your parking lot to ensure it has proper lighting.
- **Share information with nearby businesses.** If you are not a member of a block club, either join one or start one. This is a great step toward crime prevention and allows easy sharing of crime information and trespassed individuals who might cause problems at other businesses nearby. Contact your Crime Prevention Specialist.
- **More crime prevention information.** Find more ideas at <http://go.usa.gov/AJc5>

If you have further concerns or want someone to come out and talk to you about business security tips, please call the 5th Precinct at (612) 673-5705, and ask to speak to a Crime Prevention Specialist.

