**Vehicle Burglaries**

As holiday shopping increases so do vehicle burglaries. You should not only be careful while you are shopping but on campus too. The Medical Center area has a high rate of vehicle burglaries. This is due to the numerous parking lots, garages, apartments and businesses in the area. The University Police Department is asking the campus community to help tackle vehicle crime by taking simple steps to protect your property.

**Vehicle Burglary - A Crime of Opportunity**

Vehicle Burglary is most often a crime of opportunity. Carelessness is a contributing factor when vehicles are broken into or stolen. You can minimize your chances of becoming a victim by taking away the opportunity.

**Tips to deter vehicle burglaries**
- ALWAYS lock your car and fully close windows and sunroofs
- NEVER leave anything in plain view
- CLEAN it out; do not leave anything in it that may be tempting
- REMOVE CD covers or stereo mounts, take them with you or place them in the trunk when the vehicle is unattended. Write down the model and serial numbers of your stereo equipment
- NEVER leave the car with the engine running, or the keys in the ignition
- LOCK the trunk or tailgate.

USE anti-theft devices such as an alarm system, ignition kill switch or fuel cut-off switch to prevent fuel from reaching the engine. There are also devices that attach to the steering wheel or brake pedal to deter theft.

**Items to avoid leaving in your vehicle and/or view:**
- UTHSCSA ID’s
- Cellular phones and chargers
- Pagers
- PDAs
- CD’s
- Purses/briefcases
- Wallets
- Back packs
- Clothing
- Laptops/cameras
- Sports equipment/tools
- Removable stereos including the removable face plates
- Tools of any kind
- GPS equipment. Clean the suction cup markings from the window.

**Operation I.D.:**
- With an electric engraver, etch your driver’s license number (DL55555555TX on stereo equipment laptops, and other valuable items. You may borrow one from UT Police. Contact the Crime Prevention Officer for more information at 210-562-9095.

**Report** suspicious activity or persons to the UTHSCSA Police Department at 210-567-2800, for crimes in progress call 9-1-1/567-8911 (cell).

IF YOUR VEHICLE IS BURGLARIZED, DO NOT TOUCH OR ENTER IT AND CALL THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!

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**Special Note:**

Some of you have not been able to fill in our forms or click on some of our links in the Newsletter. This is because of Adobe Reader and a default setting. PDF documents that are fill-able and some with Text Links with hidden URLs do not work unless a setting in the reader’s preferences is changed one time. This is the PDF/A View Mode setting. It needs to be changed to ‘Never’.

- Open your Adobe Reader
- Click on Edit
- Click on Preferences
- Click on Documents
- Change PDF/A to ‘Never’
- Click OK
**Parents Beware**

**Teens soaking gummy bears in alcohol to get a buzz.**

Are you keeping a eye on the alcohol in your house? Make sure the bottles have not been refilled with Sprite.

Teens are now using gummy candy (bears and worms to be exact) to get buzzed or drunk. They soak the candy in alcohol, vodka is most popular.

The teens have no idea how much alcohol they are consuming. The candy could cause serious medical issues such as alcohol poisoning especially if a young child accidently eats them. Teens do not think about how this could effect their driving.

Teens can have the candy in small baggies and take them where ever they go such as school classrooms, sporting events, movies and even right in front of their own parents.

Anyone can learn how to make these candies by just going to the internet. There are thousands of websites that tell how to make them.

Take the time to talk to your children about these dangers.

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**A Christmas Crime Prevention Poem**

By: Virginia Paccione

Twas the week before Christmas and throughout most homes presents were wrapped and left all alone.

Gifts were then placed under trees with care not knowing thieves were in the night air.

Families in a hurry to get to the stores left homes in a haste, without locking their doors.

Not thinking, they neglected to turn on the lights giving thieves the advantage on a moon-lit night. Thieves hid in bushes left poorly trimmed in search of their prizes under trees brightly trimmed.

Some smart families were doing things right hiding their gifts out of plain sight.

Some children unwrapped their gifts Christmas day while others, sadly, had none with which to play. Securing their homes by employing crime prevention the thieves plans were thwarted, fearing detention.

Those who learned from the Health Science Center their homes were made safe; thieves could not enter.
HOLIDAY PARTIES

The Christmas holidays is one of the happiest times of the year for most people, irresponsible behavior by a few people can turn good times into bad times. Here are few tips to make your holiday party safe and enjoyable for everyone...

- Plan lots of group activities -- like party games. The popularity of board games for adults makes this activity socially acceptable.
- Make sure there are plenty of nutritious foods, vegetable dips, cheese, finger sandwiches etc. so guests will not drink on empty stomachs.
- Avoid too many salty snacks, which tend to make people thirsty and drink more.
- Offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages for the designated driver and others who prefer not to drink alcohol.
- If preparing an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base like fruit juice. Alcohol is absorbed into the blood stream faster with a carbonated base.
- Ask guests to appoint a designated driver before the evening begins. This person drinks only non-alcoholic beverages to ensure that friends or loved ones get home safely.
- DO NOT push drinks.
- If you provide an open bar, be sure the bartender has had server training to prevent over-serving or serving guests under age 21.

If, despite your efforts, some of your guests have had too much to drink, drive them home, arrange a ride with another guest who is sober, call a taxi, or invite them to stay over.

Spiced Cider

1 quart cider
1/2 cup sugar
Dash Salt
12 whole cloves
1 (4 inch) cinnamon stick
8 whole allspice berries

Combine all ingredients in 2-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Cool. Refrigerate covered, several hours. Just before serving, reheat slowly. Strain to remove spices. Serve hot, in mugs or punch cups, along with cookies. Makes 8 servings.

PET SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Always keep a watchful eye on your pets during the holiday season. There are many unsuspected hazards that can pose a potential danger to your pets. Here are a few things to keep in mind for your furry friends.

Decorations: Tinsel, Christmas tree water, ornaments, ribbons and electrical cords.

Holiday plants: Lilies, Holly, Mistletoe and Poinsettias.

Food items: Grapes, raisins, walnuts, alcohol, chocolate, uncooked bread dough, meat trimmings and bones. Not all of these are poisonous but can make your pets sick due to change of diet.

Make sure your pet has proper identification tags and micro-chip just incase they decided to make a mad dash outside and gets lost.

Know where your nearest emergency vet clinic is. You never know when you might need to go there. There are several all over the city that are open at nights and on holidays when your regular vet is closed.

Make sure you watch the weather for freeze warnings so you will know if they need to be brought inside or a heater/heat lamp needs to be hooked up. Have plenty of blankets for them to cuddle down into.
We want everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season. The festive nature of the holidays can lead us to temptations that could direct us to a dangerous driving situation. Remember a after work party with a spiked punch can lead you to be a little buzzed. You are still impaired. Don’t Drive if you are Blitzen!

If you are hosting a party with alcohol you need to take responsibility. If your guest have had to much to drink don’t let them drive. Call them a cab, take them home or let them stay over night.

Don’t Drink and Drive!
You and Your Friends Arrive Home Alive!

**WORTH NOTING**

**HSC True Crimes**

**Graffiti:** At 4:00 pm UT Medicine staff reported that someone else had tried their artistic skills by drawing the human anatomy in the unisex bathroom on the 1st floor of the MARC.

**Theft of motor Vehicle:** At 1:21 pm a construction worker came back to his Ford F-250 parked in visitor lot 6 on Long Campus to retrieve some equipment. At 3:10 pm he returned to the parking lot and found that the truck had been stolen. After further investigation the construction worker admitted that he left the truck unlocked and his keys in the ignition. The truck was seen on camera leaving the lot at 1:57 pm.

Interested in what crimes are happening on campus? Sign up to HSC True Crimes listserv to find out. You may register at [HSC True Crimes](http://uthscsa.edu). After your e-mail address is submitted, you will receive an e-mail back asking your to confirm the registration and then you will receive a confirmation message.

**CRIME PREVENTION IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY!**

Report Suspicious Persons when you see them, don’t delay.