



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Public Service Announcement

530-897-4942

Crime prevention if leaving Chico during the holidays.

The holiday season in Chico is traditionally a joyous time, but it also sees an increase in crime, especially thefts. As people leave town for the holidays, here are some tips and ideas to keep your house and valuables safe:

Take your valuables with you! Laptops, tablets, watches, gaming systems, and other small valuables are quickly and easily concealed and stolen. Do not leave them behind to get taken.

Do not leave valuables in view where they can be seen from windows outside. This includes your house or vehicle.

Lock all of your windows and doors, even if you are only leaving temporarily. Unlocked windows and doors are the most common entry points for thieves.

Place a 'vacation hold' on your mail and newspapers, or have a trusted neighbor pick them up daily. A stack of mail or newspapers signal to thieves your house has been empty.

Write down and/or photograph the serial numbers of all your valuables. Even if the Police Department recover your stolen items, we may not be able to prove they are yours without the documented serial numbers or proof of ownership. If there is no serial number, engrave your name, driver's license, or other identifying number on the item.

Place your lights and/or radio on a timer to make your residence appear occupied while you are away.

Do not keep a spare key hidden outside your house. Thieves know where to look for it.

If you have to leave valuables behind, consider temporarily renting a storage locker to keep your items safe in your absence.

Finally, do not post on public social media sites that you are out of town. Tech-savvy thieves may monitor public social media groups looking for targets.

The Chico Police Department wishes you all a happy and crime-free holiday season.