

# Department of Public Safety Newsletter

Mott Community College

December 2004

Issue 11



## Holiday Safety Tips

The following Holiday Safety Tips were compiled in cooperation with the LAPD Crime Prevention Section to contribute to the safety and security of people during the holiday season. The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. The Mott Community College Department of Public Safety wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

### Driving

- \* Avoid driving alone or at night.
- \* Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- \* If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- \* Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- \* Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- \* Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- \* Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- \* Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- \* Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- \* When approaching and leaving your vehicle be aware of your surroundings.
- \* Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- \* Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

### Shopping

- \* Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- \* Dress casually and comfortably.
- \* Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- \* Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- \* Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- \* Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- \* Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- \* Keep cash in your front pocket.
- \* Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- \* Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- \* Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.