

VCU Campus Watch

Virginia Commonwealth University

A Publication of the VCU Police Department

Crime Prevention for your Holiday

The holidays are a good time for relaxation and fun, but don't leave your common sense at home. All types of crime are frequent during the holidays when people spend more time shopping and are away from home. When preparing for the holidays, consider the following Tips from the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department. Remember to have an enjoyable, but SAFE vacation

Before Leaving the Office:

1. Lock your office doors and secure valuable property in secure closets or cabinets. Take all keys with you.
2. Take valuable personal property home with you.
3. Secure large, VCU general use items in storage areas.
4. Save all computer files and properly secure media according to policy.
5. Provide Campus Police or Hospital Security with holiday locking/unlocking schedules for buildings and access lists for authorized personnel.
6. Make sure that all appliances are unplugged. Unplug your computer instead of depending on your surge protector.
7. Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave.

SECURITY ESCORT SERVICES

Call VCU-WALK (828-9255)

The VCU Security Escort Service is a great resource for your safety and is offered daily from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. on both the Monroe Park Campus and VCU Medical Center Campus. The service provides safety and security to all students, faculty and staff who wish to use it.

Please visit our web site at <http://www.vcu.edu/police>

TIPS to help have a Happy and SAFE Holiday

Most robberies occur between the hours of sunset and sunrise. As the hours of darkness increase with this holiday season, the VCU Police recommend the following precautionary measures to reduce your chances of becoming a robbery victim:

1. **Travel populated, well-lighted routes.** Avoid walking or parking in shadowed areas. Have your keys in your hand as you approach your door, and remember to look around and think safety.
2. **There's safety in numbers!** If you must be out at night, arrange to go to class, do errands or go shopping with a companion or two. If you are alone in the VCU area, use the Security Escort Service from 5pm to 8am. Call VCU-Walk (828-9255) for an escort. The service is free; you simply have to present your VCU I.D. to the responding officer.
3. **Avoid displaying and even carrying large sums of money in public.** Consider credit cards for shopping purchases. Only carry the credit cards you need. At VCU, use the debit account feature on your VCUCard for bookstore, dining and parking transactions.
4. **Be careful with purses or wallets.** Carry a purse close to your body, but do not loop or wrap straps around you. A purse snatcher could injure you. Keep wallets in an inside pocket.
5. **Be alert and aware.** Pay full attention to who is around you when you are in public. Avoid focus on text messaging and phone calls.
6. **If you are confronted, COOPERATE!** Give the criminal what he/she asks for – wallet, keys, jewelry, credit cards, and electronics. Your life is more valuable than replaceable possessions. Don't make sudden moves or try to apprehend the criminal yourself. Concentrate on remembering a description and call police immediately.



*VCU Campus Police and You
Together for a Safe Campus*

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**Police Emergency: 828-1234
VCU Escort Service: 828-WALK**