



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.

Last year during December 2014 and January 2015, 75 residential burglaries were reported to the Chico Police Department.

Here are some tips if you are leaving Chico for the holidays:

Take your valuables with you! Laptops, tablets, watches, gaming systems, and other small valuables are quickly and easily stolen.

Do not leave valuables where they can be seen from windows.

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.

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

Place your lights on a timer to make your residence appear occupied.

Do not keep a spare key hidden outside. Thieves know where to look for one.

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

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