



# SPECIAL EDITION CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Hinds County Department of Emergency Management

Hinds County Board of Supervisors



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December 2017

<http://www.hindscountyms.com/departments/emergency-management>

Volume 5, Issue 5

Greetings,

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. We are writing to provide you with a few ideas to keep you safe and secure during this holiday season.

You can help protect yourself from burglars by practicing the following tips. Make access to your home difficult. Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and use them consistently. Windows should be locked at all times. If you have a pet door put the sliding panel in before you leave home. Some burglars are skinny enough to get in through the flap. Be cautious about letting too many people know when your home will be unoccupied for long periods of time. Thieves like to see unkempt yards, mailboxes overflowing and newspapers left on the front walk. Have somebody come by when you are gone and take care of these things. You can also use light timers to randomly turn lights on and off in the home so it appears to be occupied. Most of all don't share travel plans on social media sites unless you are sure that your privacy settings won't allow strangers to know you are away from home. Home security systems are always a good idea but if it's not in the budget many companies will provide (usually with a small fee) signs/stickers for the yard/windows indicating that a home has a monitored security system. If a burglar sees them, he is generally going to go elsewhere.

New Years Eve is quickly approaching and we all know there are two things that many people enjoy during this time. Fireworks and alcohol are both extremely dangerous if the people enjoying them do not use wisdom and take safety precautions. If you are going to drink **DO NOT DRIVE!** Always have a designated driver or call a friend/family member to pick you up. Your life is more important than getting behind the wheel of a car and killing yourself or somebody else. There is always another answer!

First and foremost fireworks are NOT for young children! Even sparklers burn at temperatures around 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Never place any part of your body over fireworks when lighting and back up a safe distance immediately after lighting the fireworks. Do not attempt to re-light or pick up one that did not fully ignite. Light fireworks one at a time and never point or throw them at another person. Do not carry them in a pocket or shoot them from a metal or glass container. Keep a bucket of water or a hose on hand in case of fire or other accidents. After the fireworks have stopped burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water.

We hope that as you enjoy the holidays with your family and friends that you will heed our advice for the safety of your loved ones and your homes. One more thing before we go, during this festive time enjoy the things you have to be thankful for, take nice long naps, eat lots of amazing food and then go walk around the block because everybody knows after the new years it is all about getting healthy!

Merry Christmas,

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