



North Coast Schools' Insurance Group

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SERVING DEL NORTE COUNTY AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Crime Prevention during the Holidays

With daylight getting shorter and the holiday season upon us, it is time to look at your security and crime prevention procedures to ensure safety on and around your campuses. This includes property crimes, vandalism, theft, personal safety, arson, etc.

Each year local law enforcement reports an increase in thefts and property crimes over the holiday season. Here are some helpful tips that you and your District can practice to reduce the likelihood of being victimized:

- Stay alert and always be aware of your surroundings. Keep your head on a swivel, especially when arriving and leaving work.
- A person walking or driving past slowly several times may be “casing” a target. Trust your gut instinct if you think something is not right.
- If you notice a suspicious activity on or near the campus, report the subject to your supervisor or law enforcement immediately.
- Always secure valuable equipment and set alarms on any high-value rooms, such as computer labs, when leaving for the night.
- Be discreet when handling cash.
- Do not leave purses, wallets, wrapped gifts, or valuable items inside your vehicle. If you must, be sure to lock them in the trunk, out of site.

Confronting a criminal is dangerous! The best thing you can do if you observe a crime is be a good witness. Make a mental recording of the suspect's height, weight, clothing descriptions, vehicle descriptions, direction of travel, etc. Remember that no piece of property is worth risking your wellbeing!

Vacant Property

In the midst of a busy holiday season and planning for Winter Break, it can be easy to forget about campus safety, but empty schools can attract thieves with their own holiday wish list, including computers, flat screens, smart boards, personal information for identity theft, and even furniture.

Any time your campus is going to be empty for an extended period, it is a good idea to check for potential security risks well in advance of leaving. Prevention is key and a tactical site survey can be an important tool to help you identify dangerous situations or security hazards before they become opportunities for criminals. Before a building is to be left vacant check door locks, windows, lights, and any security systems in place. Make sure all are working properly, which can reduce the likelihood of break-ins and vandalism while you are away. If your budget allows, increase security patrols and guard services for sites that may be at risk.

