

# NEWS RELEASE

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2011

Media Contact: Celso Martinez, 972-623-8836

## Police Department offers holiday-related security tips

PROSPER (December 13, 2011) The holiday season is one of the most highly anticipated times of the year, when the spirit of giving, sharing and spending time with family and friends is uppermost in peoples' minds. Unfortunately, the holidays are also the time of year that produces an increased level of criminal activity, according to Prosper Assistant Police Chief Gary McHone.

"We can get so wrapped up in the season and the trappings of the season that we sometimes forget that there is an element of our society that is always on the lookout for an opportunity to commit a crime," he said.

Here are some safety and security tips that can help avoid a bad experience this season.

In the home:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when leaving home, even for a few minutes.
- Do not display holiday gifts where they might be seen from a window or doorway.
- Store gifts away before you go on a holiday trip.
- Before taking the holiday trip, test all smoke detectors and replace batteries if necessary.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on your holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good order.
- Don't leave ornamental lights on overnight or when you're away from home.

While shopping:

- Do your shopping before dark if possible.
- Try to coordinate shopping trips with a friend.
- Don't park in a poorly lit parking lot or area, no matter how convenient it may seem.
- Lock packages in your vehicle's trunk or out of sight if your vehicle does not have a trunk.
- Keep the doors locked and windows completely closed when parking.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

-more-

- If you can, pay for purchases with a card or check.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated.
- Don't allow children to go into a parking lot by themselves.

“The holiday season is also the time of year when people come together and enjoy each other’s company. If you host a holiday party, have non-alcoholic beverages available for your guests. And, make sure intoxicated persons have either a safe way home, or insist on making them overnight guests. Do not let anyone drink and drive,” concluded the Chief.

###

**ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER** – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 10,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 90,000 residents, Prosper’s vision is to remain a “Place Where Everyone Matters.”