

Home Vacation Safety Tips

Sheriff John R. Armer would like to offer the citizens of Gila County the following information to assist with a safe and happy vacation:

Preparing for a family vacation takes a lot of planning; for instance choosing the right vacation location, the type of accommodations, how long you will be gone, your mode of transportation, etc. Along with planning your vacation itinerary you should plan for the safety of your home and property to decrease the chances of a crime occurring in your absence. The following are some helpful hints that the Gila County Sheriff's Office hopes will make your vacation less stressful:

Before you leave

- Keep your shades, blinds, and curtains in their normal positions.
- Put your mail and newspaper publications on vacation hold.
- Place timers on several lights throughout your residence. The timers should be programmed to turn on and off at appropriate times, this will give the appearance that someone is at home.
- Make sure all door and window locks are in working order and be sure to use them. Activate your home alarm if you have one.

Packing for Prevention

- Clean out your wallet or purse before you go. Take only essential credit cards. Plan to use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash whenever possible.
- Carry your purse close to your body, or your wallet in your front pants pocket.
- Pack as lightly as possible. Lots of heavy, cumbersome bags will slow you down and make you more vulnerable to being robbed.

On Arrival

- Don't display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags and other items that might draw attention. Keep a low profile.
- Check maps before you go out. Be familiar with the area so you may tour confidently.
- It is always best to travel on well-lighted and well-traveled paths at all times - avoid shortcuts.

The Gila County Sheriff's Office hopes that your vacation is fun and safe!!!