



An Garda Síochána

Holiday Security/Personal Safety



Community Policing



HOLIDAY SECURITY



This presentation addresses three key areas relating to your holiday security as follows -

- **Preparation plans and securing your property**
- **Safety when travelling**
- **Protecting your children**
- **Seat Belts**
- **Beach Safety / Life Jackets**
- **Hill Walking**
- **Victim Support**



PREPARATION PLANS AND SECURING YOUR PROPERTY



Before you go:

- Find out about the place you are visiting. Is it safe for visitors? Are there any local laws or customs which are different to home that you should be aware of?
- Be familiar with security measures at airports and/or seaports. Many common household items cannot be carried as hand luggage on planes.
- Inform a trusted neighbour or relative as to your travel arrangements, intended destination and contact details.
- Do not unwittingly advertise your travel arrangements to others.



PREPARATION PLANS AND SECURING YOUR PROPERTY



Before you go:

- Invite neighbours to make use of your driveway for car parking.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed, particularly when absent for long periods in summer.
- Cancel your milk, paper deliveries etc.
- Arrange for a neighbour or relative to collect your mail or use Mailminder from An Post.
- Make full use of light timing devices and do not have curtains drawn during the day time. Your neighbour may oblige with this duty.



PREPARATION PLANS AND SECURING YOUR PROPERTY



Before you go:

- If you have a domestic alarm – inform your monitoring centre of your absence and ensure any nominated key holders will attend promptly to any activation.
- Be aware of any insurance limitations on vacant premises.
- Notify your local Gardaí of your absence from home.
- Invest in a quality safe for any valuables left in your home.
- Carry out a “housekeeping” exercise around the grounds of your home and remove and secure any unsecured items.



SAFETY WHEN TRAVELLING



- Use your work address on items of luggage.
- Record separately details of your passport and driving licence, all credit and bank cards, travel documents, and emergency contact numbers for each of these services.
- If you have a mobile phone, these contact numbers should be saved on the phone using international access prefixes.
- Have your vehicle fully serviced prior to departure and ensure you have replacement bulbs, emergency equipment etc.
- If you are using a roof rack for luggage, park only in secure car parks and remove it when not necessary.



SAFETY WHEN TRAVELLING



- Know where you are going and, if you need to stop, use only established service station areas.
- Be cautious of stopping for strangers or “persons in trouble” – call the Gardaí or local police.
- Remove all valuables, maps etc. inside your car and place them in the boot.
- Carry a mobile phone and know how to contact the emergency services in the area you are visiting.
- Know where you are if they need to locate you.
- At your destination hotel, camp-site etc. - be very conscious that you are easily identifiable by criminal elements as a visitor/tourist.



SAFETY WHEN TRAVELLING



- It is important that you lock and secure your room and valuables and never leave keys on display.
- Never carry all your cash/valuables with you. Use the hotel safe where possible.
- Don't flaunt or advertise your wealth - thieves will be watching for this.



HOLIDAY SCAMS



Typical scams to be on the look-out for include -

- The bogus exclusive holiday club - which promises a lot but generally fails to deliver
- The phoney '2 for 1' voucher - often relating to restaurant meals which, when attempting to redeem, is found to be 'out of date' or 'no longer valid'
- The bogus taxi driver - "*Beat the queue, sir, come with me*", except you often end up taking the scenic route and paying far more than necessary
- Unofficial currency exchange scams - great rates offered but often found to contain counterfeit notes or blank paper in the middle of the bundle of notes handed back to you.
- "If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is"



PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN



- Teach your children your full address and contact telephone numbers including how to call the Gardaí or local police in the event of an emergency.
- If your child gets lost – teach them how to report to a security person, store manager, the Gardaí or local police.
- Advise them on the tactics that are used by abductors to approach them e.g. to go looking for a lost pet, offering gifts etc.
- Tell them they should never to go with strangers, into houses or cars regardless of what explanation or inducement is being offered.
- Tell your children to inform you immediately if a stranger has approached them.



PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN



- Never dress your children with their name conspicuously on their clothing, as a stranger may use their name to get their attention.
- Tell them to run, scream and where to go if a person tries to touch or grab them.
- Parents or guardians should accompany children to toilets in public places.
- Survey the recreation places your child uses –point out the likely danger areas - alleyways, concealed places, recesses etc.

Finally, never delay in reporting a missing child. Ensure you have an up-to-date photo with you.



SAFETY BELTS/RESTRAINTS



- The **driver** of a vehicle must wear a safety belt.
- Adult **passengers of 17 years and over** - front or rear seats - must wear a safety belt.
- A **Child under 3yrs** must be restrained by a legally recognised restraint system: (**Except SPSV – Child can sit in rear seats only**)
- Up to 13kg - rearward facing baby seat – up to 15mths approx.
- 9kg to 18kg – forward facing child seat – 9mths to 4yrs approx



SAFETY BELTS/RESTRAINTS



- Passenger's from the age of 3 yrs to 16 yrs inclusive (under 36kg / 150cm in height) - front or rear seats - must be restrained by a legally recognised restraint system: (**Except SPSV – Child can sit in rear seats only**)
- 15kg to 25kg – booster seat – 4yrs to 6yrs approx
- 22kg to 36kg – booster cushion – 6yrs to 12yrs approx

NEVER put a child seat in the front of a vehicle fitted with an active Airbag.



SAFETY AT BEACHES



DO'S . . .

- Swim on a lifeguarded beach
- Swim parallel to the beach and not out to sea
- Check out a new beach from a height
- Swim between the red and yellow flags.
- Learn about waves, currents and the tide
- Avoid drifting away from the lifeguarded area
- Swim across currents to safety
- Check where boards and canoes are used
- Beware of a rising tide - don't get stranded
- Beware an ebbing tide which can draw swimmers/ inflatables away from shore
- Remember that cold water reduces your swimming ability
- Keep inflatables on a secured line
- Keep clear of surfboards and jet skis
- Stay out of the water if a red flag is flying
- Get out of the water if you start to feel cold
- Keep off sandbanks





SAFETY AT BEACHES



DON'TS . . .

- *Don't swim in dirty water*
- *Never swim alone*
- *Never swim after eating*
- *Never swim after drinking alcohol*
- *Don't swim immediately after exercising*
- Don't allow children to go immediately for a swim until you have checked out the safety arrangements
- Don't go for a quick swim after a lengthy car journey
- Do not dive into shallow water





CRAFT/ADVENTURE ACTIVITY



- If equipment on offer looks worn - don't use it.
- Never go on the water alone or without training.
- Don't drink alcohol before going on the water in any craft.
- If the person in charge of the craft looks inexperienced do not get on board.
- Don't take part in any water sport activity at night.
- Always wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and ask how to secure and inflate it.
- Do not get on board if the craft appears overloaded or unstable.
- Ask what safety measures are in place in the event of an accident.
- Always wear protective headgear.
- If you can't swim - don't partake.



BEFORE GOING AFLOAT...



- Before going afloat, for your own and your family's sake, you must have basic skills in seamanship.
- Check the weather forecast
- Check the condition of all craft.
- Ensure that safety equipment is provided for all on board.
- Make sure you leave details of your planned trip with someone ashore.
- Know your limitations and that of your crew.
- Personal Flotation Devices (lifejackets and buoyancy aids) and safety harnesses should be provided for everyone on board.
- Ensure that emergency and communication equipment is provided.
- Keep an eye on the weather and sea conditions. Seek shelter in good time.



WEARING A LIFEJACKET



- Visually Check all lifejackets and buoyancy aids for the following deficiencies:
- Ensure CO2 Cartridges have not been punctured
- Ensure all zips, buckles, fasteners and webbing straps are functioning correctly
- Check that their lights, if fitted are operating correctly
- Check that the valve or lifejacket is not leaking by inflating the lifejacket overnight or immersing it in water checking for air bubbles
- Discard any faulty lifejackets by destroying them



WHEN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS.... (Hill Walking / Mountain Climbing / Camping / Orienteering)



- Plan your route
- Always tell someone where you're going, what route chosen and when you expect to be back.
- Instruct them to contact the emergency services if you have not returned safely or been in contact after a certain cut off time.
- Check the weather reports and ensure you are appropriately dressed for the conditions.
- Be aware that the weather can change very rapidly in the hills so always carry warm and waterproof clothing.
- Ensure you are wearing suitable foot ware such as a stout pair of walking boots.
- Ensure you choose a route that is suitable for your level of fitness, skill and experience.
- Carry a map and compass and make sure you know how to use them. Otherwise they are useless.
- Consider carrying a whistle, plastic water / wind proof bag that can be used as a shelter in an emergency, a torch, a mobile phone (even though the signal may be variable).



VICTIMS SUPPORT



Irish Tourist Assistance Service

1a Lower Grand Canal Street Dublin 2
IRELAND

Tel: +353 (0)1 661 0562

Fax: +353 (0)1 661 0462

Homepage: <http://www.itas.ie>

Email: info@itas.ie

Crime Victims Helpline

IRELAND

Tel: +353 (0)1 408 6118

Locall: 1850 211 407

Fax: +353 (0)1 408 6125

Homepage: <http://www.crimevictimshelpline.ie/>

Email: info@crimevictimshelpline.ie