



City of Ocoee Police Department

646 Ocoee Commerce Parkway (407) 905-3160 – Criminal Investigations Division



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, November 30, 2017
PIO Contact: Deputy Chief Stephen McCosker
Phone #: 407-554-7192

The Ocoee Police Department has initiated several “operations” in order to reduce crime during the Holiday Season.

Operation Lasting Mark: Residents of Ocoee can come to the Ocoee Police Department during its normal business hours and “check out” an engraver. The engraver can be utilized by the public to etch their possessions with a drivers license number. Criminals who see the engravings may be less likely to steal the item because of its unique markings. In the case where the item is stolen, the engraving will make the items easier to identify and return the property. If a citizen wishes to participate in the program all they need to do is bring in a drivers license or other valid form of photo ID and agree to return the engraver within 3 days.

Operation Safe Disposal: Flat screen TVs, video game consoles, computers, jewelry and more are common holiday gifts. It’s not uncommon to see an array of boxes by the curb, advertising expensive holiday gifts, right after Christmas. Unfortunately, leaving your boxes in front of a home makes it very easy for criminals to figure out what is inside the home and allow them to target specific residences.

This year the Ocoee Police Department is partnering with the Waste Connections of Florida. Each of the following drop-off locations will have a recycling bin for safe disposal of gift boxes and/or packaging:

Property on Brushy Creek Court
(South of Ocoee PD Headquarters)

Vignetti Park
1901 Adair Street
Ocoee, FL 34761

Drop off locations will be available November 24, 2017 through January 2, 2017. Illegal dumping at these sites will not be tolerated; only cardboard boxes will be permissible.

Operation Porch Private: The Holiday Season increases the number of deliveries made to homes. Criminals have been known to follow delivery trucks, wait for them to drop off a package, and then steal the unprotected package. These types of criminals have come to be known as "Porch Pirates". Many residents have installed cameras to deter or capture images of these criminals. The Ocoee Police Department invites citizens to have their packages delivered to the Ocoee Police Headquarters. The citizens can use the tracking number provided by the vendor to be notified of the delivery. The resident can pick the package from the police headquarters by showing a valid identification.

Operation 9PM ALERT Some criminals wait until most people have gone to bed so they can roam around neighborhoods and jiggle door handles to find cars that have not been locked. They are known to police as known as "CAR HOPPERS" or "DOOR JIGGLERS". The Ocoee Police Department has been utilizing social media to remind citizens to set an alarm for 9:00 PM in order to remind them to remove their valuables, lock their vehicles, and turn the porch light on.