

Tips for a Safe Spring Break

Millions of students in the U.S. anxiously look forward to Spring Break each year. Unfortunately so do millions of criminals. The following is a brief list of some options you should consider before leaving for Spring Break. Remember to make responsible decisions while having a good time.

Before you leave:

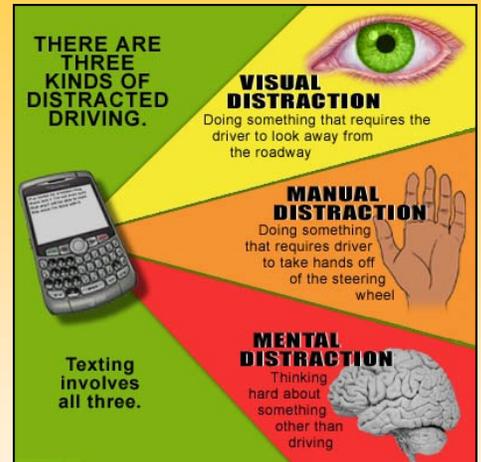
- Stow your valuable possessions out of sight ---in a closet, locked trunk, or a lockable storage area---or take them home with you.
- Be sure to **LOCK** your windows and doors (including the patio door)
- before you leave and double check!!!
- Make sure your roommates understand the importance of locking up as well.
- Own a bicycle? Take it home or lock it to a stationary object in your room.
- Write down the serial numbers to all of your valuable electronic items. Store those numbers somewhere other than your residence.
- Visit <http://mupolice.missouri.edu/cp/> where you can register your bicycle, your laptop and access the printable form to record the serial numbers of your valuables.
- Engrave your valuable items with your driver's license number and/or your name (NOT your Social Security Number).
- Leave your porch lights on (both front and back ones). Criminals prefer the cover of darkness. Consider using timers on lights to give the impression that your home is occupied.
- Know anyone in the neighborhood that is staying in town over break? Ask them to keep an eye on your residence while you are gone. Have that person pick up your mail and newspapers (if necessary) and change which lights in the residence are on to make it appear someone is home.
- If you do not already have it---get Renter's Insurance just in case something happens.
- If you live on campus let your CA know you will be gone and when you expect to return.
- **Check your vehicle:** If leaving your vehicle ensure that it is locked and consider moving it to a more well-traveled area, as opposed to parking it in a secluded area.



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If driving to your destination:

Check your fluid levels and tire pressure to ensure safety. Try and maintain at least $\frac{1}{4}$ tank of gas so you don't find yourself stranded or forced to stop someplace unsafe. Stop at least every four hours to ensure that you are refreshed and not sleepy. Consider swapping drivers if driving for long periods. Know where you are going before you leave having maps and detailed driving directions. Take a cell phone and a car charger with you to call for assistance if needed.



After arriving:

Check your hotel room to ensure that the doors and windows lock securely and the peep hole is installed properly in the door. Don't store valuables in your room while you are gone unless a safe is provided. Take them with you or leave them with a friend.

Going out:

Utilize the buddy system to help ensure that your friends are safe. If you choose to drink, do so in moderation and ensure that at least one member of your group is not drinking. This person serves as more than the sober chauffer. Beware of "gift drinks", predatory drugs are easy to obtain and administer. As much as possible stay with your group, each year accidents during spring break result in injury and/or death to several students.



If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the University Police Department.

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