



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

DATE: November 2, 2010
SUBJECT: Holiday Hotel Travel Safety

Holiday travel season will soon be upon us, so now is a good time to review some basic crime prevention measures to take while staying at hotels. Criminals know that hotels are a target-rich environment, so a little extra diligence goes a long way.

Points to consider:

- Ensure that your hotel door has multiple locks, including a blind dead-bolt.
- Do not open the door to anyone whose ID is unverified. If in doubt, call the front desk.
- When using the elevator, stand near the controls so that if you are assaulted you can hit the alarm. Don't get on an elevator with anyone suspicious or intoxicated. If someone like this gets on with you, hit the button for the next floor and exit.
- Don't insert the key into your door or enter your room if you spot someone suspicious loitering nearby. That is their opportunity to force you into the room. Go to the front desk and ask for an escort.
- Use the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door, even when out of the room. Leave the TV and a light on when you leave the room.
- Do not leave valuables in your room. There are many ways to defeat hotel door security (coat hanger under the door to hook the handle, unsecured housekeeping key, etc). Use an in-room safe or a front desk safe deposit box if available. Don't assume that hotel staff will not steal your belongings- it has happened before.
- Be careful of leaving any personally identifying information or anything with your home address printed on it in your room that might be used by a criminal (or an unscrupulous staff member). If they are enterprising enough or have contacts elsewhere, they know this is the perfect time to arrange a burglary at your residence.
- Park in a well-lit area, as close to the hotel lobby or parking attendant's booth as possible. Do not leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle, and make sure it's locked.
- If it is a criminal matter, insist on involving the local police. Some hotels are prone to try to keep things quiet to protect their business, particularly if an employee is involved.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Sergeant Stephen Wilbanks
Crime Prevention Officer
Hall County Sheriff's Office
610 Main St. SW
Gainesville, GA 30501
770-533-7674
swilbanks@hallcounty.org