CAUTIONS WITH GIFT CARDS

“Did You Know”
How to Protect Yourself from Gift Card Fraud

How it works
Criminals clone gift cards by first taking them off of store racks where they are basically worthless because no money has been put on them yet. The thief uses an electronic card reader/writer to copy the information from one gift card to another, making an identical copy. The thief then takes the original gift card back to the store and places it back on the rack for unsuspecting customers to purchase them. Using a computer, the thief is able to check public retail sites to check gift card if the card has been purchased and its balance with a sophisticated program. The program is able to have the computer alert the thief once a gift card is activated and its balance. The thief then activates the phony card and uses up the balance since most cards are gifts and there is a delay in its activation.

How to prevent becoming a victim
Purchase your cards from behind the counter where only a store employee has access rather than a free standing gift card rack where anyone can have access.

Become a friend of Public Safety on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to learn more ways to protect yourself.  http://www.pacific.edu/Student-Life/SafetyPacific.html

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR A HAPPY ONE

***BE ALERT*** Always be aware of your surroundings. If a suspicious looking character or group of people are by your vehicle turn around and go back into the store and ask security to escort you to your car. Always try to see what’s going on around you! An alert shopper is a safe shopper!!
***SAFETY IN NUMBERS*** If you are going out shopping, go with a friend or a couple of friends. There really is safety in numbers! Having a friend to shop with not only gives you company, but if you are burdened by shopping bags, one person can watch them while the other shops too!

***TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED*** Don't carry a purse if you absolutely don't need one. Before you leave the house take out the credit cards and cash you need for the day (and your driver's license if you are driving!) and move them into a small credit card case or wallet. Wear pants with pockets to keep your keys & wallet in, it's much safer closer to your person than in your coat pockets. Wear a fanny pack and keep it snug fitting and in the front by your stomach rather than on your hip.

***DON'T MAKE TRIPS TO THE CAR*** Don't drop off purchases at the car and then return to the store! That gives wannabe be thieves the perfect opportunity to break into your car and steal your items. Rent a stroller or bring your own to load up on packages.

***NEVER LEAVE YOUR BELONGINGS UNATTENDED*** Leaving your purse, laptop, wallet, cell phone, chargers, I phones and even loose change out in the open in your car will be an opportunity for someone to steal them. Always keep them right with you. Leaving them unattended even for a quick minute gives someone else the opportunity to swipe them. If you stop for a snack or lunch, keep your items close by and keep an eye on them.

***DON'T USE YOUR REMOTE TO UNLOCK FROM A DISTANCE*** Wait until you are right at your vehicle to open the car. Doing it from a distance not only allows someone access to your vehicle, but it also tells them exactly where the harried mom with the small kids and full arms is headed!

The most important defense you have is being aware of your surroundings at all times.
WE ARE “SHINING OUR STARS AND BLARING OUR SIRENS”

The Department of Public Safety is proud to announce a few of the most significant contributions made by the Department in the 2010 year.

The Police Officers Association donated $300 toward the Turkey Drive to feed the hungry sponsored by the University in November.

The Department of Public Safety is proud to announce that the Department had the highest percentage contribution rate for the United Way fund in the Division of Student Life.

Officer Nick Demuth was selected as the Officer of the Year for his contributions above and beyond his daily duties.

CSO Kosta Panos was selected as the Employee of the Year for his dedication and service to the University above and beyond his daily duties.

All of our sworn Police Officers have completed the State mandated Police Officer Standards and Training — Advanced Officer Training. Congrats!!!
Jan. 1 also ushers in a handful of other new laws for California's motoring public.

A bill sponsored by Assemblyman Roger Niello lays out age-specific requirements drivers must fulfill to obtain a motorcycle instruction permit. Among new requirements for drivers younger than 21 years of age is the successful completion of a motorcycle safety course administered by the CHP.

New rules to combat a rising tide of motorcycle thefts makes it a misdemeanor to possess, give, or lend any device designed to bypass the factory-installed ignition of a motorcycle in order to start the engine without the manufacturer's key. It will also be illegal to possess any motorcycle ignition or part of motorcycle ignition, with the intent to unlawfully take or drive, or to facilitate the unlawful taking or driving of a motorcycle, without the consent of the owner. Items of hardware, including bolt cutters, electrical tape, wire cutters, wire strippers, or Allen wrenches, with the intent to aid in the unlawful taking or driving of a motorcycle without the consent of the owner, is included in the new prohibitions.

An amended section of California's Vehicle Code will now allow a "video event recorder" to be mounted in a 7-inch square in the lower corner of a vehicle windshield on the passenger side, or a 5-inch square in the lower corner of the vehicle windshield on the driver's side, outside of an airbag deployment zone. It also makes it legal to mount the video event recorder in a 5-inch square in the center uppermost portion of the interior of the windshield. The new law also defines a video event recorder and requires a vehicle equipped with one to have a notice posted in a visible location, which states that a passenger's conversation may be recorded. In addition, this law lays out rules for recording events, notes who the rightful owner of the footage is, and who is entitled to a copy of the recording.

Much like an AMBER Alert, new rules for the activation of the Emergency Alert System for a "Blue Alert" would occur if a law enforcement officer has been killed, suffers serious bodily injury, or is assaulted with a deadly weapon, and the suspect has fled the scene of the offense, if the investigating agency has determined that the suspect poses an imminent threat to the public or other law enforcement personnel.

A Blue Alert will be issued if a detailed description of the suspect's vehicle or license plate is available for broadcast and if authorities determine public dissemination of available information may help avert further harm or accelerate apprehension of a suspect.

Several other miscellaneous vehicle code sections were added or amended to take effect Jan. 1.

Section 667 of the Vehicle Code was added to define a "utility trailer" as a trailer or semi-trailer used solely for the transportation of the user's personal property which cannot be used in commerce, cannot exceed gross weight of 10,000 pounds, but can be used for transportation of livestock.

Section 5201 of the Vehicle Code was amended to require license plates to be mounted parallel to the ground so the characters are upright and display from left to right.

Another code section allowing drivers of vehicles to pass on the right under specified conditions was amended to clarify that it does not prohibit a bicyclist from passing on the right in either a bicycle lane or on a shoulder.
The Department of Public Safety would like to ask you to join us by sending your ideas addressing any safety issue that you are aware of on campus. You may know of some areas of concern that we need to made aware of. Please send your concerns or ideas for improvement to mbelcher@pacific.edu.

Happy 2011—we look forward to working with you!!