



# Safety and You at ISU

### When you travel, plan ahead!

If traveling by vehicle, know where you are going and how to get there and back. Obtain a map or download the latest available GPS data. **Check for construction detours**; for longer trips, get a weather forecast.

Inform a family member where you will be and when to expect you back; give them your route if they don't know it.

**Travel and conduct your business during daylight hours if possible.**

**When driving, keep doors locked and windows rolled up at all times. Maintain at least half a tank of fuel,** and keep vehicle in good repair.

If planning a "road trip" over the holidays, have your vehicle serviced and checked out sufficiently far ahead to allow for repairs if needed. Don't forget to have the mechanic check your spare tire and all fluid levels along with the other preventive maintenance procedures.

The single-most essential safety tip: **Devote your full time and attention to driving!**

**NEVER** pick up hitchhikers (*your parents were right!*)  
(Courtesy University of Oklahoma)

### Shopping during the holiday season

can present unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous.

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips from the Los Angeles Police Department Crime Prevention Section can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.

- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Source: **LAPD Crime Prevention Section**

If possible, leave your children with a baby-sitter while you are shopping. For holiday shopping, consider making arrangements with family or friends/neighbors, and take turns baby-sitting. If you take your children with you, **keep a close eye on them while shopping.** Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard if they ever get

separated from you in a store/mall, and be sure they know their first and last name so they can tell someone who they are.

### ISU's Snow Closure Policy



With the approach of winter, Public Safety would like to issue a reminder about the University's **snow-closure policy**. Public Safety maintains a school closure information line, **x3936**. When a decision is made to close the university, a message will be placed on the snow-closure line for both the Pocatello and Idaho Falls campuses. Local radio and television stations also will be notified. An additional notice will be posted on the [ISU homepage](#) and on the [ISU Public Safety Web page](#). For information specific to the Idaho Falls campus, call x7825. For more information about the policy, call x2515.

### Wash Your Hands!

**According to health professionals around the world, our best defense from all the colds, flu and the sick yuck we suffer from each winter is "washing your hands."**

**Every wonder what you would do if a person with a gun entered your workplace or classroom? Public Safety has two videos entitled "Shots Fired" setup for viewing on our Emergency Response website. They offer information or "what if" tips on what to do if an active shooter enters your classroom or workplace. Visit our website at:**  
[http://www.isu.edu/pubsafe/emergency\\_menu.shtml](http://www.isu.edu/pubsafe/emergency_menu.shtml)



*"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."*  
Norman Vincent Peale



# STOP HATE

**EVERY YEAR**  
more than half a million college students are targets of bias-driven slurs or physical assaults.

**EVERY DAY**  
at least one hate crime occurs on a college campus.

**EVERY MINUTE**  
a college student somewhere sees or hears racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise biased words or images.

When bias motivates an unlawful act, it is considered a hate crime. Race and religion inspire most hate crimes, but hate today wears many faces. Bias incidents (eruptions of hate where no crime is committed) also tear communities apart — and threaten to escalate into actual crimes.

According to FBI statistics, the greatest growth in hate crimes in recent years is against Asian Americans and the gay and lesbian community. Once considered a Southern phe-



nomenon, today most hate crimes are reported in the North and West.

And these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. Law enforcement officials acknowledge that hate crimes — similar to rape and family violence crimes — go under-reported, with many victims reluctant to go to the police, and some police agencies not fully trained in recognizing or investigating hate crimes.

**All over the country people are fighting hate, standing up to promote tolerance and inclusion. More**

**often than not, when hate flares up, good people rise up against it — often in greater numbers and with stronger voices. (Courtesy of StopHate.org, an educational initiative of Campus Pride)**



## General Rules for Holiday Safety

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**
- Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes—particularly long, open sleeves—near open flames — such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.
- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense.
- Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

*“And so happy Christmas  
For black and for white  
For yellow and red ones  
Let's stop all the fight  
A very merry Christmas  
And a happy New Year  
Let's hope it's a good one  
Without any fear.”*

Imagine that you don't feel safe. Someone is following you, texting and e-mailing you, and you are afraid. More than 3.4 million Americans a year are victims of stalking—a dangerous crime that can happen to anyone.

## Stalking: Myths & Facts

**MYTH:** You can't be stalked by someone you're dating.  
**FACT:** If your “friend” tracks your every move in a way that causes you fear, that is stalking.

**MYTH:** Technology is too expensive and confusing for most stalkers to use.  
**FACT:** Stalkers can buy easy-to-use surveillance equipment for as little as \$30.

**MYTH:** If you confront the stalker, he or she will go away.  
**FACT:** Confronting or trying to reason with a stalker can be dangerous. Get help.

**MYTH:** Only celebrities are stalked.  
**FACT:** The vast majority of the 1.4 million people who are stalked each year are ordinary citizens.

**MYTH:** If you ignore stalking, it will go away.  
**FACT:** Stalkers seldom “just stop.” Victims should seek help from law enforcement to stop the stalking.

**MYTH:** Stalking is annoying but not illegal.  
**FACT:** Stalking is a crime in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

If you or someone you know is being stalked, or to find out more about stalking, contact any of the following:

Public Safety	282-2515
Pocatello Police	234-6100
Family Services Alliance	251-4357
Janet C. Anderson Center	282-2805

**There will be a  
Stalking Awareness  
Panel Discussion  
January 20, 2011  
6:00pm  
Little Wood River Room**