

Nov.
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NEWSLETTER

Issue
#4

You cannot reverse the effects of crime. Crime cannot be undone...

Holiday Hijackings: What You Need to Know to Stay Safe

With the festive season just around the corner, it is extremely important to keep your guard up as criminals take advantage of the holiday spirits.

Continue reading on page 2.



Crime Never Takes a Break

As the year rushes towards its end, many are eagerly anticipating some well-deserved time off to relax and spend with loved ones. But criminals don't take holidays, and crime doesn't slow down.

Continue reading on page 4.

A Word from André Mundell: Security Risk Assessor

After 20 years of conducting Security Risk Assessments, visiting thousands of crime scenes, and speaking to hundreds of victims, allow me to share how I see the security status of corporate entities, government buildings, estates, homes, and other properties.

Continue reading on page 6.



André Mundell, Alwinco, Independent Security Risk Assessor

Holiday Hijackings: What You Need to Know to Stay Safe

Let me walk you through what you need to know to avoid becoming a target of hijackers this holiday season. Imagine driving is like playing a game of chess: every move counts, and thinking ahead can keep you out of danger. In the same way, when you're on the road, being prepared and alert can be the difference between staying safe and falling into a trap.

Hijackers often wait for the right moment, using tricks to catch you off guard. Here are some of the sneaky ways they operate:

Red Lights and Stop Signs: These are like pause buttons that hijackers exploit. Armed criminals might take this chance to force you out of your car.

Box-In Method: Multiple cars surround you, leaving no space to escape. You're trapped and forced to stop.

Pretend Police Stops: They may pose as police officers, pulling you over for what seems like a normal check—but it's all a setup to steal your car.

Staged Accidents: Ever seen a car broken down with someone waving for help? Sometimes it's a trap. When you stop to assist, they attack.

Gate Block Trick: At home, hijackers might tie your automatic gate to prevent it from opening. When you step out of your car to check, they jump in and drive off.

How to Outsmart the Hijackers.

Now that you know the tricks they use, here are smart ways to protect yourself, just like a chess player plans a few moves ahead.

Avoid using your phone or other distractions when driving. Keep your eyes on the road and scan your surroundings, especially at intersections and parking lots. Be on the lookout for unusual behaviour from other drivers or people.

Hijackers love predictability. If you drive the same route every day at the same time, you might be making it easy for them to track your movements. Change your routes and driving times when possible.

Plan smart routes.

It might feel annoying to drive in traffic, but busier roads



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are safer. Avoid isolated areas where hijackings are more likely, especially at night. If you see a car following you, **don't head straight home**—drive to a police station or a well-lit public area instead.

Practical Tips for Daily Safety.

At Intersections:

Don't stop too close to the car in front of you. Leave enough space to escape if needed.

If you are in danger and need to drive away—even if it means skipping a red light. Your safety is more important. Do it in a safe manner.

Entering Your Home:

Open your gate early so you don't have to sit outside waiting. If you notice a suspicious vehicle, keep driving and don't pull into your driveway.

Doors Locked, Windows Up:

Always keep your doors locked and windows closed, especially in high-risk areas. Avoid engaging with strangers at intersections.

Be Careful with Valuables:

Don't leave bags, laptops, or phones in plain sight inside your car. These items can attract criminals.

Watch Where You Park:

Park in well-lit, busy areas. Avoid isolated parking spots or places where escape routes are limited.

Don't Stop for Suspicious Incidents:

If you see an accident or breakdown that seems strange, drive past and call for help. It could be a setup.

Police Stops:

If an officer in an unmarked car tries to pull you over and you feel unsure, **drive to the nearest police station** or a busy, well-lit area. It's within your rights to do so for safety.

Consider installing anti-hijacking devices like immobilizers, panic buttons, or tracking systems. These can help recover your car quickly if it's stolen. Some tracking systems even allow you to shut down the vehicle remotely.

There are also apps and private security services that offer **escort services** to monitor

your route home, or panic buttons linked to emergency responders.

If you find yourself in the middle of a hijacking, remember: **Your life is more valuable than your car.**

Stay calm and **comply** with the hijackers' demands.

Avoid sudden movements. Move slowly, step out of the car, and leave the keys behind.

Don't try to fight or resist. The goal is to survive the encounter unharmed.

Final Thoughts: Safety First, Always

Staying safe on the road is like staying ahead in a game—anticipate the moves of those around you and stay alert. The holiday season is meant to be joyful, not stressful. With a bit of planning, awareness, and some smart precautions, you can protect yourself and your loved ones from becoming hijacking victims. Stay safe and enjoy the journey!



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Crime Never Takes a Break

The festive season is a time for celebration, but unfortunately, crime doesn't take a holiday. In fact, many types of crime increase during this time, as criminals take advantage of the joyful chaos. Staying safe means being prepared, staying alert, and making smart choices to protect yourself and your loved ones. Let's walk through some of the dangers to watch out for and how you can avoid them.

Theft and Sneaky Tactics: Keep Your Guard Up

The holiday season can make us a little too relaxed, and thieves love that. They're not just looking for what's in your home—they're also watching what you put out with the trash. **Those empty TV or game console boxes** left by the bin are like advertisements, telling criminals what's inside your home. To avoid this, break down packaging and keep it out of sight until collection day.



Online shopping also surges during the holidays, which creates more opportunities for fraud. Be on the lookout for **fake online deals**—if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Cybercriminals may send **scam emails or fake delivery notifications**, hoping to steal your personal information.

If you're ever unsure about an email or SMS, avoid clicking on links and go directly to the company's official website. **Identity theft** is a real threat, so stay cautious when sharing personal details online.

Nighttime Road Hazards: Beware of Spikes and Drunk Drivers



Driving at night can be especially risky. Criminals sometimes scatter **spikes** across the road to puncture tires, forcing drivers to stop in vulnerable places. These spikes can be made from almost anything—**nails in a hosepipe, bits of rubber, or pieces of cardboard**. If you hit one, **don't stop immediately**. Keep driving until you reach a safe, well-lit area, even if it damages your tires. A wheel can be replaced—**your life can't**.

Another risk to avoid on the road is **drunk driving**, which tragically increases during the holidays. If you plan on drinking, **don't get behind the wheel**. Arrange a ride with a friend, use a taxi service, or call an Uber or Bolt.



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To stay out of harm's way, try to avoid driving at night when intoxicated drivers are more likely to be on the road.

Domestic Violence: Don't Stay Silent

Unfortunately, the holidays can also see a rise in **domestic violence** fueled by alcohol and stress. If you or someone you know is in an abusive situation, **reach out for help immediately.** Don't wait for things to escalate—safety is a priority, and there are services that can assist. These incidents can become life-threatening in an instant, so it's important to act quickly.

Public Safety: Watch Out for Crowded Spaces and Vandalism

Crowds and alcohol can create dangerous situations in public spaces. **Fights, assaults, and disturbances** become more common at bars, events, or even family gatherings. Keep your distance from trouble and avoid confrontations.

Even something as cheerful as **Christmas decorations** can attract the wrong kind of attention. Bored individuals or intoxicated people may vandalize public displays or even your personal holiday setup. If you're setting up decorations, **keep them secure and well-monitored.**



Home Security: Prepare Before You Travel

If you're heading out of town, **review your Security Risk Assessment** before you go. This will help you identify any vulnerabilities and ensure you've taken the necessary precautions. Here's a quick checklist to follow:

Check your security system.

Make sure your cameras are working and can be monitored remotely via your phone or computer.

Test the alarm battery. If possible, install a backup battery to keep the alarm running during power outages.

Share access with caretakers. If someone is watching your house, set up a **temporary PIN** for gate or alarm access.

Don't advertise your absence. Avoid posting your travel plans on social media—criminals can use this information against you.



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Safety for Kids and Teens

Keep a close eye on your family members during the holidays. Don't allow them to walk around unsupervised, whether at the mall, on the beach, or even in your neighborhood. Here are some extra tips to keep everyone safe:

Enable location tracking on family members' phones with apps like "Find My Device" or similar tools.

Exchange phone passcodes and email addresses with trusted family members in case of emergencies.

Set up a secret hand signal that your family can use to discreetly communicate if they're in danger.

REMEMBER: Young ladies (teenage girls and young adults) are especially targeted for a multitude of crimes.

Your **Security Risk Assessment** is your personal guide to identifying potential risks and taking steps to stay safe. If you already have one, use it to prepare for the holidays. If not, **schedule one for January**—it's a smart way to start the new year. Staying safe isn't just about luck; it's about being proactive.

The holiday season should be filled with joy, not worry. By staying alert, taking precautions, and being prepared, you can protect yourself, your family, and your property from crime.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay safe, stay smart, and enjoy every moment with peace of mind.

A Word from André Mundell: Why Security Needs a Captain



Let me explain something I've learned from years of experience as a Security Risk Assessor. People tend to understand things better when you tell a story or paint a picture, so here's one for you:

Imagine you're at an airport, standing on the tarmac. There, in front of you, sits a **state-of-the-art jet**—the kind loaded with all the latest technology. It's shiny, powerful, and built for incredible performance. You admire it and ask me, "Who's flying this beauty?"

I point to a **janitor holding a mop** and say, "He's the one in charge."

Now, let me ask you: **Would you feel safe boarding that plane?** Of course not. It doesn't matter how advanced or expensive the jet is—if the wrong person is in the pilot's seat, **it's not going anywhere.**

The same thing happens in **business security**. You can have the most expensive cameras, alarms, and access control systems, but **without a clear security plan and proper management**, they're as useless as that jet with the janitor at the controls.

Many businesses fall into this trap. They buy all the latest gear, thinking that alone will solve their security problems. But here's the reality: **Security equipment is only as good as the plan behind it** and the people running it. That's where things often go wrong. Without a solid strategy or clearly defined security goals, the fancy gadgets just become expensive décor.

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This is why I always recommend starting with a **Security Risk Assessment**. Think of it as hiring an expert pilot to take the controls. The assessment ensures that every piece of equipment works as part of a **coordinated system** with a specific goal—whether that’s protecting property, reducing crime, or securing employees.

During a walk-through of your premises, I look at everything from a **criminal’s point of view**. I ask questions like:

What are the **weak points**?

How can criminals **exploit patterns or habits**?

Are there **gaps in security management** or poorly trained personnel?

The goal is to connect the dots between your equipment, routines, and response strategies. This gives your security setup a purpose, so it’s not just sitting idle like a jet with no one to fly it.

Security isn’t just about **buying the latest technology**; it’s about **understanding how to use it effectively**. If you don’t have a **plan** and **measurable goals**, you’re like a business owner staring at an impressive jet that never leaves the runway.

So, before investing in more equipment, ask yourself:

Who’s flying the plane?

Do you have the right **people, processes, and planning** in place?

Are your security tools part of a **bigger, well-coordinated strategy**?

If you’re serious about security, **get a proper assessment** to identify risks and ensure your setup is effective. Think of it as hiring a captain who knows how

to fly the jet and can get you where you need to go. After all, **security isn’t just about having tools—it’s about making them work together for a purpose**.

Don’t let your security sit idle on the runway. With a plan in place and clear goals, you’ll make sure your investment takes off—and, most importantly, keeps you safe.

Your safety matters. Let’s make sure your security soars.

