

FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 16/2023**

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PSA safety tips for festive season

With the approach of the festive season, the PSA has the safety and well-being of all public servants at heart. The following safety tips can assist in navigating the festive season, whilst enjoying the holidays:

Plan your travel

When traveling, plan your route in advance, considering both traffic conditions and safety. Stick to well-lit, well-traveled routes, and avoid isolated or dangerous areas. Share your travel itinerary with a trusted person, so they know where you are and when to expect you. If using public transportation, be vigilant of your surroundings and stay alert to any suspicious activities.

Personal belongings

Avoid displaying expensive items such as jewelry or electronic gadgets, as it may attract unnecessary attention. Keep your personal belongings, including handbags, wallets, and laptops, secure at all times and out of sight in your vehicle, *etc.* Avoid carrying large sums of cash. Rather opt for electronic payment methods, where possible.

Public spaces

When in public areas, be aware of your surroundings. Stay alert to pickpocketing attempts in crowded places such as markets, shopping centers, and public transportation hubs. Avoid walking alone at night and always try to walk in well-lit and populated areas.

Safety in the workplace

Maintain a clean, organised workspace to minimise hazards and ensure a safe environment for yourself and colleagues. Familiarise yourself with the emergency procedures and evacuation routes in your workplace. Report any suspicious behaviour or security concerns to your supervisor or appropriate authorities.

Social gatherings and celebrations

If attending parties or other social events, be cautious of excessive alcohol consumption. Drink responsibly and never drink and drive. Stick with trusted people during social gatherings and avoid leaving with strangers. Also be cautious when receiving and sharing personal information on social-media platforms, especially when it comes to your whereabouts during the festive season.

The PSA urges all public servants to prioritise their safety during the festive season. Your well-being is essential, and taking proactive measures plays a crucial role in safeguarding yourself and those around you.

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