

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=18956>

Thieves See Christmas As The Season For Taking (KNZA)--Now that local communities have welcomed the Christmas Spirit, holding ceremonies to start the Christmas season, homes are beginning to be transformed for the holidays.

Lights are being strung, trees are being put up, and gifts are being placed beneath them.

The temptation to show off that indoor display, by opening the curtains wide for passersby to see, is only natural. However, along with those who casually peer inside are thieves who use the opportunity for a later return to burglarize the home.

Hiawatha Police Chief John Defore says awareness of that possibility must be top of mind, with homeowners reminded to take steps to deter such thieves(Play Audio)

Defore says criminals are very aware that more valuables than usual are being held at homes, meaning more temptation for those looking to make fast money(Play Audio)

Homeowners are also reminded to make homes look occupied even while traveling away from home during the holiday season. That means leaving lights on inside, while someone should be asked to pick up newspapers, mail, or similar items while the homeowner is away, as those are tell tale signs that a home is not currently occupied.

Many Signals Communications