



Certified Instructor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vacation? You Need A Traveling Buddy!

Springtime often inspires us to take a nice weekend or longer vacation. But with the fun and excitement comes the need to plan for our safety and security before we depart and while away. This is a very large topic to cover. This discussion will be limited to the effective use of a highly trusted friend, relative or neighbor-hereafter referred to as your FRON. The following are some safe travel suggestions you may have not considered before:

Keep your travel plans as private as possible. Only let those who need to know (FRON) when and where you will be going and returning. Do not discuss your vacation itinerary in public places and do not post this news on any social media before you leave or during your absence. Save your pics and stories for when you get home.

Do however, share all your travel plans with a totally trusted FRON. Let them know exactly when you will be leaving, where you're staying, how to contact you, and when you'll be returning. Ideally, this person can also pick-up your newspaper, mail and anything left on your driveway or at the doorway. Leave a spare house-key with them but do not attach any identifying information on the key.

Ask your FRON to inspect your home daily. Have them thoroughly patrol the exterior of the house first. Instruct them not to enter if there is any evidence of a break-in but have them call the police immediately.

Have a FRON drive you to the airport, train station, port, etc. if traveling by these methods. Now, one less person (cab driver, limo driver, shuttle bus driver) will know you're gone. If gone for a long period of time, consider leaving your car in a lighted driveway and let your FRON move it periodically.

Alternatively, encourage your trusted neighbor to periodically use your driveway while you're away while keeping your car garaged. ***Bonus Tip-Don't leave anything of value visible inside the car.***

Consider leaving a copy, front and back, of your credit and ATM cards with a ***highly trusted*** FRON. In the event of card theft or loss, it will be much easier to quickly report the incident, minimize their use, and replace them with this information readily available. Consider leaving copies of other important documents you may need to reference while away. Retrieve these copies upon your return.

Stay in touch with your FRON while gone. Leave a list of people for them to contact if a situation warrants. Try to contact your FRON at least daily with your plans and how to best get in contact with you that day.

Of great Importance, don't forget to get your FRON a nice "thank you" gift upon your return and be happily willing to do all the above for them when they go away!

Rick Wehrheim is the Director of HomeGuard Associates located in Homosassa. HGA provides products, education, and training for groups and individuals concerning safety and security issues. Mr. Wehrheim is an NRA Certified Instructor and conducts their "Refuse to Be a Victim" seminars. His seminar program was featured in a nationwide NRA newsletter. He is also a Certified Instructor for Security Equipment Corporation's "Civilian Safety Awareness Program". Please contact him with any questions or for information regarding upcoming programs. Contact-(352) 503-6931 or homeguard@cox.net