



# GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS

Alaska grown and operated since 1974

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1-800-478-1898

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#### Update Policy:

Changes must be made in writing. A telephone followup to verify your identify with your passcode must occur *before* changes take effect.

Plan accordingly for contact list updates, or your personal contact information.

Changes can be made via mail, email, the website, or at the main office in Anchorage.

Expect a phone call verification of these changes.

It's our policy to protect your account at all times.

Update online at <https://www.guardiansecuritysystems.com/support/update-emergency-contact-list/>

## Deck the Halls and Deter Theft

The holiday season is upon us. Shopping, wrapping, gift-giving, and holiday parties mark a time of fun, family, and feasting. However, it's important to note that home invasions and identity theft increase markedly during this time. The solution? Think like a thief.

Because there are fewer hours of daylight this time of year, and the lights are on, the interior of our homes is in full view to anyone outside. Turn inside lights on, then go outside and walk around your home. Take note of what is easily visible.

If you are able to see expensive, portable items (Is there a big television in full view? Gun case? Purse on the counter? Smartphones on the coffee table?), rearrange your home or draw the blinds to make your possessions less visible.

Replace outdoor lights with motion

sensitive lighting. Thieves do not like spotlights.

Your car at the airport means to a burglar that a home is empty and unguarded. If your car is broken into, a thief can find your address. Therefore, don't leave identifying information in your car, including registration and insurance information. Simply take it with you. For that matter, avoid carrying a purse (40% of identify theft cases involve a stolen purse). Instead, carry ID and a credit card or two in a zipped or secure pocket while shopping to minimize risk.

And as always, be sure doors and windows are securely locked, whether you are at home or not, and that your alarm system is armed. These tips help ensure your holidays have only good surprises.

We are Guardian wish you a happy and safe holiday season!



Guardian offers:

\*local monitoring  
by a local  
company

\*24/7 monitoring  
of your home or  
business

\*free  
training on all  
system  
components

\*video  
surveillance

\*web-based home  
automation

\*free consultations

\*access control

\*patrol services

\*burglar, fire,  
temperature and  
moisture alarms

\*interactive  
security

\*alarm response  
program

\*more!

# Before Your Vacation: Home Security

With the long holiday break, many families say goodbye to the cold and set their sights on warmer weather, or head down to see family in the lower 48. No doubt the vacation has been planned for weeks, if not months...the travel itinerary, the lodging, activities, visits, and shopping to be done.

It is important to give a little attention to the security of one's home before heading out the door. A few precautions go a long way in keeping your home a hardened target; that is to say, a poor burglary prospect. Unfortunately, crime rates do increase during the holidays, and so extra precautions are in order if your home is going to be left unoccupied for a period of time.

***Purchase and use a locking firebox to store banking information, passports, and other valuable items.***

For starters, be sure your alarm system is in working order. Address any problems or questions, such as what will happen if the system goes into alarm while you're away. This is important not only for your own information, but to inform your house sitter or neighbor, so they're properly prepared as well. Testing your system through Central Monitoring is recommended monthly, but considered imperative before you leave on a trip. There are instructions for how to do this on the website (<http://www.guardiansecuritysys.com/support/testing-your-system/>) and questions can be answered by calling Guardian any time.

While your home is empty, strategic burglary prevention strategies involve making the house appear occupied. This may include employing a house sitter to stay at your property, or enlisting the help of a trusted neighbor to pick up newspapers, plow the driveway and leave tire tracks. A would-be thief watching your home will notice whether the house stays dark or whether lights are on. It is recommended to automate lighting for this preventive purpose. Lighting can be controlled with an app from your smartphone or tablet, or if you are going to be away from technology, then lighting can be set to a timer as well.

Guardian is pleased to offer a la carte home automation components, which savvy customers can install themselves. (Guardian is also happy to install components for a small fee.) It is no longer necessary to purchase a big home automation package with more parts than you need; timed lighting, for example, is available on its own.

On the other hand, if a pipe were to burst and it would prove difficult to explain to a frantic neighbor where the shut-off valve is, perhaps other home automation components would help protect the value of your home.

If your neighborhood has seen a rise in crime over the last year, it may be prudent to install surveillance. Visible exterior cameras are effective crime deterrents, and of course aid in solving a crime should one take place.

If you would like more information about vacation security, such as setting up alarm response, [contact a Guardian Security Consultant](#) today. We're here to serve!

# Cranberry Meatballs



This hearty recipe is sure to keep hungry teenagers and munching family members happy until the holiday dinner is served. Made with chili sauce and cranberry sauce, the meatballs come out tangy. Serve from the crockpot or with toothpicks. Warm it up the next day for an easy lunch.

## Ingredients:

- 1 bottle (12 oz) chili sauce
- 1 can (15 oz) jellied cranberry sauce
- 1 jar red pepper jelly
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 pounds frozen meatballs

## Instructions:

1. Combine all sauce ingredients.
2. Place sauce and meatballs in crock pot, stirring well. Cover and cook on low heat 6-8 hours or high for 2 hours.

## Baby, It's Cold Outside Considerations for Colder Weather

People have been remarking on the temperature for centuries. Galileo invented the rudimentary thermoscope, a precursor to the thermometer, back in 1593. Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit invented the first mercury thermometer in 1714. After that came Santorio, Celsius, and Kelvin with ways of accurately measuring temperatures at both extremes. You don't need to be a scientist to know it's cold outside this time of year. But, there is plenty of fun to be had in the winter months with proper planning and gear.

First, be sure your car is in proper working order to avoid a winter breakdown. Get it tuned up and check the battery strength. Cold temperatures magnify existing problems such as hard starts, rough idling, and weak batteries. Check tire pressure weekly.

Second, be sure you and your children are properly outfitted. Nothing beats a bright sunny winter day, but proper outdoor attire, such as warm hats, gloves, and coats made with wind and water repellant material, make a walk to the bus stop or an afternoon of sledding safer and more pleasant. Dress children in one more layer than adults, and be aware that a shivering child is already in the beginning stages of hypothermia. Warm up often.

And finally, protect your home. Alaskan winters come with a higher risk for frozen water pipes and flooding issues. Because of this, Guardian offers environmental security components for your system. For example, if moisture is detected above a certain limit, such as when a pipe bursts, an environmental sensor sends your system into alarm and we notify you or your designated contact. The problem is handled as quickly as possible, minimizing potential damage. Call us if you'd like to know more about environmental sensors.

Bundle up and have some fun out there. We at Guardian wish you and your family a season of fun and safety!





*May you and your family enjoy the best of the holiday season!*

*We value your trust and appreciate your business. Thank you!*

*~Guardian Security Services*

### **Around Alaska**

**Little Nordic Ski Club**, Anchorage. November 14-January 2, 1-2 pm. Kincaid Outdoor Center. Open to children ages 4 and up learning to ski. No experience necessary; must provide own equipment. Parent meeting Nov. 14. \$55. 907-343-4217 for more information.

**Hope Alaska Christmas Bazaar**, Downtown Hope, December 5, 11am-5pm. Free admission, complimentary hot coffee and a warm woodstove for your enjoyment as you shop for hard-to-find local gift items.

**Yuletide Bazaar**, Wasilla, Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry, December 19-20, 11am-5pm. Free! Support local crafters and artists and find those last minute items. See [www.museumofalaska.org](http://www.museumofalaska.org) for more information.

**Blind Boys of Alabama**, Fairbanks, December 11, 7:30-9:30, tickets prices vary. Winning 5 Grammys and 4 Gospel Music Awards with beautiful harmony, this group has a 70-year history. [www.fairbanksconcert.org](http://www.fairbanksconcert.org) for more.