Before you take off for spring break, your local police departments, -- University of Maryland and Prince George’s County -- have some easy-to-follow safety tips.

Protect your shell (residence) while you are away:

- Keep windows locked, regardless if they are upper or lower level windows.
- Remember to lock your doors before you leave.
- If you have a home security system, engage your alarm when you are away.
- Place lights on a timer to give the appearance of someone being home.
- Keep bushes trimmed back to remove hiding places for potential criminals.
- Store and secure any loose items that might be in the yard, for example, a ladder, tools, etc.
- Never place a key over your doorway or outside the house. Ask a friend or a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your residence while you are away.
- Use blinds and drapes for privacy.
- Take valuable items such as jewelry, money, portable electronic devices, etc., with you to avoid potential theft.
- If you are leaving your vehicle at your residence over the break, remove items of value, secure windows and doors, and if you have a security feature, engage it.
- Never enter your home if you see that a door or window has been forced open. Go to the nearest safe place and contact police immediately.

Report any off-campus unusual or suspicious activity immediately to PGPD:

Prince George’s County Police Department – Emergency Line: 911;
Non-Emergency Line: (301) 352-1200

University of Maryland Police Department – Emergency Line: (301) 405-3333 or #3333 from a cell phone;
Non-Emergency Line: (301) 405-3555