

## Tips to avoid being ?Porch Pirated?

With two weeks left until Christmas, the packages being delivered to people's residences appear to be increasing, and with that, so do the thefts.

Dufferin OPP has noticed an increase of calls regarding thefts from porches. Some tips to ensure you don't fall victim to these ?porch pirates? include:

- ? Track deliveries online and try to be home at the time a package is delivered;
- ? If possible, request deliveries services to get a signature from a recipient;
- ? When scheduling a delivery, leave instructions on where the package can be delivered or ask for a phone call when it is delivered. Even leaving a package out of sight may make all the difference;
- ? Ask a trusted friend or neighbour to receive your package at the time of delivery;
- ? If allowed by an employer, have the packages delivered to your work;
- ? Have the package delivered to a delivery depot where it can be held for pickup;
- ? Consider installing a motion-detection home security system that records video and sends immediate notice of activity to your cell phone. Many new smart doorbell systems allow live updates;
- ? Some stores provide a pickup-in-store service that allow you to pick up items from a nearer location;
- ? Look carefully when ordering as retailers may have a way of customizing delivery instructions.

if a porch theft has been comitted, please contact the OPP 1-888-310-1122.