Winter break is here! Whether you are planning to stay in your off-campus housing or travel back home, there are steps that you can take to ensure you and your off-campus housing remain safe.

**Double Check Everything:**
Whether you are leaving for a day or for a week, make sure to double-check everything at your off-campus housing. Check windows and doors to ensure they are closed and latched. Check that anything with a heating element (stove, oven, hair dryer, etc.) has been turned off. Make sure the thermostat is set to a comfortable level (68 degrees is recommended when no one is home). Ensure unnecessary electronics are unplugged, and that lights are switched off or on a timer. Check that faucets are on a slow drip if you will be gone for an extended amount of time.

**Out Of Plain Sight:**
Last-minute shopping? Make sure to put all gifts and valuables in a safe place. If shopping put as many things as possible in your trunk or try covering items with blankets. Park near well lit, highly visible areas when out and about. Take valuables, heirlooms, and identifying information with you if you will be leaving your off-campus housing for an extended period of time.

**Don’t leave packages outside:**
Went a little overboard on cyber-Monday? Make sure you have a way to keep an eye on your packages! Check-in with the post office to see if they can hold your package until you can pick it up, or have a neighbor hold on to it for you.

**Social Media:**
Be careful about posting when you are leaving and how long you will be gone on social media.

**Build a "Winter Survival Car Kit":**
Check out "Tiff’s Tips" to see what you should pack in your emergency travel kit! Increased traffic and inclement weather mean a greater possibility of danger. Ensure you are prepared in the event of an emergency on the road!

“Off-Campus Student Services provides resources, services, and programs designed to educate and explain the process of moving from residential living to independent living in the surrounding areas.”