

CHARLESTON

POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Safety Tips for Restaurants and Food Delivery Drivers During Coronavirus Outbreak

With the increase in food deliveries and carryout orders at restaurants, the Charleston Police Department would like to provide several safety tips for restaurants and delivery drives.

Restaurant owners/employees:

- Ensure the security of your location by not leaving the back door open and/or unlocked.
- Report all suspicious activity.
- Consider curbside service for pick-up orders.
- Encourage call ahead ordering to minimize the number of patrons waiting for orders.
- Never have just one employee working alone.
- If you have security surveillance equipment, ensure it is functioning properly and recording/saving video.

Delivery drivers should:

- Be alert for suspicious people loitering around the areas of your deliveries.
- Be alert to vehicles which may be following you while you are on your route. If possible, write down a description of the vehicle and the license number as well as a description of the occupants of the vehicle. If you suspect you are being followed, drive past the delivery point, turn around, and see if the vehicle is still following you. If the vehicle continues to follow you, call 911, and provide as much information about the vehicle description, location, and description of the driver and find a well populated place in the area to request to meet with law enforcement.
- Don't carry more money than absolutely necessary to conduct business. If you do not carry money, have a placard somewhere on the vehicle which states that the driver carries no money.
- When going to your vehicle to make a delivery, ask that a member of management or an employee be present until you are safely in your vehicle.
- Be careful not to park in isolated areas, or areas that are not well lit, when making the delivery.
- Keep the doors to your vehicle locked at all times.
- Keep the vehicle keys separate from the rest of your keys, which may allow access to businesses.
- Keep a cell phone at all times and don't hesitate to call 911 in the event you feel threatened or see something suspicious.
- Be careful about mentioning how good business has been.
- If deliveries are scheduled to take place before business hours and the loading area is in an isolated place, ask that the delivery time be rescheduled. Make sure there is proper lighting at these locations as well. Arrange to make the delivery when you know there might be delivery drivers from other companies there.
- If an incident should arise, and someone attempts to rob you, give up your property-don't give up your life, your life is more important. You can always replace your property. Call 911 ASAP and try to describe the suspect as accurately as possible. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

The Charleston Police Department has increased its presence in the community to ensure the safety of citizens.

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