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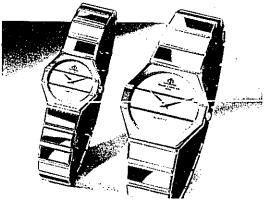
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# Keep the yule safe, prevent fire, theft

Twas the night before Chirstmas when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring except for one

Who entered a home that hadn't a prayer Of stopping his stealing whatever was

He took all the presents from under the

He took cash and jewelry, he took the TV A typewriter and radio went into the sack He greedily filled and put on his back But not before throwing a butt on the rug

And snickering snidely, "Bah and hum-bug."

There's nothing like Christmas. The anticipation, the tree, the friends and family. The snow, or the hoping for snow to make it all official. The feeling that everything will be all right. The memories, reflections and dreams of Christmases past.

But for some, Christmas is just a good time for exploiting others, a time for taking, an opportunity to make what's yours,

They are the thieves, the modern-day Scrooges who will take the merry out of your Christmas - if you let them.

Here are some practical ways to help keep Scrooges from spoiling your holiday

season. When you're out:

 Leave lights on in several rooms, attached to timers turning them on and off at varying intervals. Also leave a radio on tuned to an all-talk station.

- Leave drapes and shades open to reflect normal household patterns.

  Turn down the volume on your
- phones. Constant ringing advertises your
- If you're going to be away for an extended period, leave a cor parked in your driveway. Make sure your snow is sho-veled. Cancel all deliveries such as news-papers. Have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail and use your trash cans.

  During the holiday season, fire is also a

threat to your property and your life. You might do well to ask yourself the following hard questions: Have I taken the proper safety precautions regarding my Christmas tree? Do I know life-saving fire es-

cape procedures in case I do have a fire?
Here are some Christmas fire prevention and life-saving hints:

- Keep Christmas trees away from open flames.
   Turn off Christmas tree lights when
- you go to bed and when you leave your
- Keep the tree well watered.
- Don't put a tree near space heaters.
- Be sure all electrical applicances and tree lights are UL-tested.
- Always sleep with the bedroom or hall door closed. Closed doors can keep flames out long enough for you to escape through a window
  - · Agree on a way everyone can com-

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