

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. **CRIME TAKES NO HOLIDAY!** We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.

Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, bus stops and on buses.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Keep cash/wallet in your front pocket. Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- After placing and concealing parcels inside your vehicle, get in and park in another location in the parking lot before reentering the store or mall.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year “con-artists” may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.



Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall or well-lighted location.
- Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw away your ATM receipt at the ATM location.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspaper and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an



automatic timer.

- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.

Vehicles

- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted, well-traveled area.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car.
- Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to leaving the building.
- When approaching and leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.



- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door or trunk.
- Do not approach your car along if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask a mall or store security guard for an escort before leaving your shopping location.