

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

As we roll into November it begins the time to start our holiday shopping. A lot of criminals will prey on the unsuspecting individuals so we have put together a list of suggestions to help keep you safe.

1. Reduce distractions while walking to your vehicle. Pay attention at all times to your surrounding.
2. Park your vehicle in a well lit area at all times.
3. Limit the amount of valuables you carry with you so you can minimize your potential loss.
4. Do not leave packages in your vehicle and return to the store. Take items home immediately if possible.
5. Make a plan with your children should you become separated, such as a designated place to meet.

Obviously thieves do not only target people in person, but also online. Below are some suggestions to keep you safe while shopping online this holiday season.

1. Shop at trusted names. You may find a 'steal' of a deal at "Rip off Joe's" but live by the rule, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
2. Look at the web address to ensure it is a secure site before entering in your information. If the site is <http://> it is not secured. Make sure it is <https://>. That 's' shows it is a secure site.
3. Do not offer more information that is necessary. No legit business will ask you for your social security number or birthdate unless you are applying for credit through them. But even in that scenario be cautious and only share with sites you trust, not those who send you emails. That link could be a fake link and be a scammer.
4. Use secure passwords that are difficult for people to 'crack'.
5. Do not enter personal information, credit card info, or passwords when using a free wifi spot. Hackers can scan the wifi network and steal your information.

These are just a few tips to help you stay safe during this holiday shopping season. Should you ever need any police assistance don't be afraid to give us a call, even if you are unsure about something it is better to error on the side of caution.