



How to protect yourself during the holiday shopping season

- 1) Safety in numbers – If at all possible try not to shop alone, especially at night. Park in a safe, well-lit area. Take a few moments to observe the area before exiting your vehicle. If you see anyone (alone or in a group) loitering, just sit tight and watch for a few minutes. If they do not leave, leave and park in another area.
- 2) Don't advertise – Remove any GPS or other portable electronic devices before exiting your vehicle. Put them in your trunk, along any packages or other valuables.
- 3) Purses are bulls- eyes – If at all possible, leave your purse in your trunk or at home. Use only a small wallet that can be kept in your pocket or a belt pack.
- 4) Caution at ATMs – If possible use a drive through ATM at your bank before shopping. Use your hand or jacket to keep the keypad out of view from others. Take out only as much cash as you really need.
- 5) Don't walk around with your arms full of shopping bags, as pickpockets will go for your wallet or purse while you are a juggling act. Don't carry a wad of cash; use credit cards or gift certificates.
- 6) When returning to your car, have your car keys in your hand. Criminals will pounce while you're fumbling for your keys.
- 7) Be careful not to drink too much, as you may be too plastered to even know you have been robbed. Everyone loves a drunk, especially muggers.

If you have any questions reference personal safety or the safety reference your home during this holiday season please feel free to contact me. Police Officer Paul Graves 513-569-8649 or e-mail me at: paul.graves@cincinnati-oh.gov