

December 7, 2018

Holiday Season Tips

With the Holiday Season here, crime rates rise and criminals often target individuals they perceive as easy targets and those who appear that they are not aware of what is going on around them. This is a good time to practice your Situational Awareness and review the guidance below to enhance your personal security and safety.

Shopping Safety:

- Downsize your purse into a smaller clutch or wallet
- Carry wallets and cash in your front pocket and avoid carrying large sums of cash
- Avoid the display of expensive jewelry or bags from designer stores
- Notify card companies immediately of lost or stolen credit cards
- Avoid overloading yourself with large amounts of packages
- Be wary of strangers approaching you for any reason
- Consider using an RFID sleeve for credit cards

Parking Lot Security:

- Park strategically — avoid remote or out-of-the-way spots
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with campers, or vehicles with deeply tinted windows
- Park in a well-lit area as close as possible to the store and keep your valuables out of sight, utilizing the trunk if possible
- Do not approach your vehicle if there are suspicious people in the area
- Have your keys in hand when you approach your car

Financial Transactions:

- Choose an ATM located in a bank, mall, drive-up, or a well-lit location
- Check ATM for anything suspicious — do not hesitate to pull on pieces to ensure no skimmers have been added
- Do not throw away your receipt at the ATM location
- Immediately put money away prior to departing

Child Safety:

- Ensure your children stay close at all times
- Never permit unaccompanied trips to the restroom or vehicle
- Teach children to go to a store clerk for assistance if they are separated from you
- Ensure children know their full name, address, and telephone number
- Teach children to inform you if approached by a stranger

Protecting Your Home:

- Ensure doors are locked, including dog doors
- Activate your security system while you are away
- Keep your valuables locked up if possible
- Consider leaving lights and/or a television on
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside

If Traveling:

- Consider automatic timers for your lights and television
- Ask a neighbour to watch your home, and possible park a car in your driveway
- Put a hold on mail and newspaper delivery or ask a neighbour to collect it
- DO NOT post your travel plans on social media

**Have a safe and happy
Holiday Season!**