



# St. Louis County Police Department

## ***HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS***

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Park in well-lit and populated areas when shopping after dark.
- Conduct ATM transactions during daylight hours, if possible.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, bus stops, and other busy locations.
- Always carry your driver's license or identification along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are busy and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and carry it 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 of 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.
- 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.
- Do Not store purchased items or valuables where they can be seen inside of a vehicle.

**Immediately notify the police  
of suspicious activities and  
persons both inside and out-  
side of stores.**

***It is much better to be safe  
than sorry.***

**Dispatch: 314.889.2341**

**Or call "911"**