



**Police Emergency  
9-1-1**

**Non-Emergency  
703-792-6500**

**Crime Prevention  
Unit  
703-792-7270**



**REMINDER...**

**REPORT  
ANY  
SUSPICIOUS  
ACTIVITY!**



# December Tips

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

The holiday season is upon us. Below are some tips to keep you aware and safe during the shopping season.

- \* Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your vehicle.
- \* Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry or flash large sums of cash.
- \* Carry your purse/bag next to your body with the flap against you. Men should carry their wallets in the front pocket.
- \* Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Don't allow your attention to become distracted from your purse or packages.
- \* Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or mall.
- \* Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- \* Avoid using restrooms that are tucked away in a back area of a mall concourse or department. If you can, find a restroom near a food court or other well-trafficked area. Always accompany your child to the bathroom.
- \* If you are shopping alone and leaving the mall you can have a security officer accompany you to your car. Another option is to walk near a group of shoppers also exiting the mall so it appears that you are with the group. If you do have to walk alone, walk briskly and confidently, keeping your head high.

## WINTER WEATHER TIP!

During the cold winter months don't start your car and leave it running while you go back into the house. This creates the opportunity for someone to steal your vehicle.

***Remember if we create an opportunity for a crime to occur,  
someone will take it!***