Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

keeping your family safe

Sheriff Larry Avila

- **Pay close attention** to where you park your vehicle and if possible park close to a light pole. When leaving the shopping center, have your keys in your hand. Before walking to your car scan the parking lot for any suspicious activities, groups of people standing together in one area, people sitting in their cars but not getting out or watching patrons. If is is dark or you feel uncomfortable, ask a security officer to escort you to your car. Be sure to get in and lock your doors before pulling out of your parking space. Always trust your instincts, they're usually not wrong,
- If shopping with children **always establish a meeting place in case you are separated from your parents**. Make sure your children have a cell phone number they can call to reach you if you are separated. Encourage children to go to a store clerk or security officer and ask for help if needed. Lastly, always escort your children to the restroom, children have been photographed, molested and abducted from public restrooms and fitting rooms.
- Ladies, **always keep your purse closed**, Do not leave it unattended in a shopping cart or set it down on the floor or counter.

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