

Holiday Shopping Safety



For your personal safety during the holiday shopping season and afterwards, the Elkton Police Department offers the following tips:

- When you go out, let someone know your plans and estimated time of return. Shop with a friend or family member whenever possible.
- Assertive body language can help deter an attack. Walk purposefully and look confident wherever you go.
- As you walk, observe those around you. If there are any strangers sitting in parked cars or standing in your path avoid them. If a car approaches as you walk and the occupants harass you, run in the opposite direction so that the driver will have to turn around to pursue you.
- Stay away from isolated or poorly lit areas. If you feel you are being followed, try to walk or run quickly to a lighted, crowded place. It's a good idea to keep a police whistle on your key chain. When your personal safety is threatened, do anything you can to draw attention. Scream, yell, or blow your whistle. Know where to go for help – police station, firehouse, etc. Do not lead a stalker to your home.
- If you carry a purse, don't dangle it by your side; carry it close to your body, preferably in front. Avoid carrying large sums of money and unnecessary credit cards. Do not carry a lot of packages at once, as this makes you an easy target.
- Never put your name and address on your key ring.
- Park in highly visible, well-lit areas and keep your eye out for suspicious activity. Note exactly where you are parked so you can find your car immediately.
- Always be alert and aware. Have your car keys in hand and be ready to unlock the door without delay. As you approach your car, look under it and around it. Before getting in your car, look in the back seat and on the floor.
- Don't place your purse or packages on the roof of the car while unloading other items.
- Never leave your keys in your car, even at the gas station.
- Never leave valuables in your car. If you **must** drop packages off, put them in the trunk



- If someone suspicious approaches your car, honk your car's horn. It's one of the loudest and fastest ways to scare someone off or let others know that you need help.
- Keep your car in good mechanical condition to prevent car trouble. Keep the tank filled with sufficient gas.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!!