



TIPS TO AVOID BECOMING A HOLIDAY CRIME VICTIM

from the
**TOWN OF
SOUTHAMPTON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



We, as well as most Police Departments in the nation, generally see an uptick in certain crimes (listed below) around the holidays. Below are a few tips that can help you avoid becoming a crime victim.

- **AVOID HAVING YOUR CAR STOLEN FROM SHOPPING MALLS:**
Lock your car and keep the fob with you, not in your car. Thieves walk the aisles looking for high-end cars that start by the push of a button. If it is unlocked, it is as simple as opening the door, pressing the button, and your car is gone.
- **AVOID THEFT FROM YOUR CAR AT SHOPPING MALLS:**
Do not leave purchased items in plain view in your car. It's an invitation to a break in – There go your holiday presents
- **AVOID THEFT FROM YOUR POCKETBOOK, OR OF YOUR POCKETBOOK:**
Carry your pocketbook closed and clasped shut if it has a clasp. Carry your pocketbook with the strap across your body rather than on your shoulder to make it difficult to remove. Never leave your pocketbook on a counter, or in a shopping cart unattended.
- **AVOID THEFT OF DELIVERED ITEMS FROM YOUR PORCH OR STOOP:**
Try to arrange home deliveries when you will be at home, or try to have a neighbor assist you. Consider investing in a home security video system and make it visible to an approaching person.
 - A visible "dummy" device has merit as well.
- **AVOID IDENTITY THEFT:** Be careful about sharing personal information – credit card numbers social security number, date of birth, etc. when purchasing items online. Make sure you are dealing with reputable companies and that you are initiating the transfer of information, not responding to someone you do not expect to be asking for it. Also be careful when using a card at ATM. Make sure no one is behind you to read your P.I.N. Check the device for added skimming equipment that will record your transaction and enable a duplication.

**If you are a victim of any holiday crime,
call 911 and report it immediately.**

That gives us the best chance of catching the thief and can prevent another person from becoming the next victim.



OTHER TIPS TO HELP MAKE EVERYONE'S HOLIDAYS FUN & SAFE

from the
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AVOID ELDER SCAMS

The holiday season makes it easier for a person to suggest to you that a friend or relative has been arrested for DWI, or some other crime, or that they were in an auto accident and need money for bail, legal expenses, towing, etc.

Do not send money. Seek to verify a situation like those mentioned are real by confirming with a third person that the individual in need of money is actually in such a situation. Often it is as simple as contacting the person allegedly in trouble to find out they are not.

DRINK RESPONSIBLY IF YOU ARE CONSUMING ALCOHOL

Arrange in advance for a ride if drinking is going to be part of the celebration. It may be too late after dinking when your good senses are dulled.

***We will be stepping-up DWI enforcement throughout the Township. We rather you not end your night with us.**

HELP US KEEP EVERYONE SAVE BY BEING ALERT AND VIGILANT.

If you see a suspicious person (including a potential "porch pirate") or unattended package call 911 – let us check it out! **If you can safely take a photo or video capturing a suspicious person or car and plate do so, but DO NOT CONFRONT THE PERSON. That's our job. We are happy to do it!**



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