



The following are a few extra precautions you can take during the holiday season to help ensure that you have the safe and uneventful celebration you envision and deserve:

### **Top Shopping Safety Tips:**

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, park in a well lighted area, go with a friend or family member and ensure that you tell someone where you are going and when you intend to return.
- Try to shop when it is less crowded.
- Dress casually and comfortably. Reducing stress during shopping can increase your awareness and safety.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry if possible. Save it for your family gathering.
- Don't carry a purse or wallet if possible.
- Always carry your Drivers License or an Identification Card.
- Stay alert to your surroundings and always be ready to provide your location.
- Always carry a cell phone and have local emergency numbers available.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Avoid carrying large or bulky items. Ask for help from a trusted source.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit or debit card when possible.
- Keep cash or wallets in your front pocket.
- Keep you credit account information and phone numbers in a safe place and immediately report any lost, stolen or misused cards.
- Make sure you keep an eye on your credit card when it is being processed and make sure you get it back after the transaction.
- ALWAYS keep an eye on your children or if possible leave them at home with a responsible adult. If you must bring them, have another adult with you who can watch them while you are conducting a transaction.
- Teach children to stay by you and what to do if they lose site of you.
- Be prepared to provide complete information about your children to law enforcement in the event of an emergency.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity.

### **Getting Money:**

- While using an ATM machine during the holidays you should be extra alert:



- Use them during daylight hours if possible. If not, pick a well lighted and populated area.
- Use machines in populated areas at all times.
- Have a friend or family member with you.
- Protect your personal identification number (PIN).
- Make sure it does not appear that the ATM machine has been tampered with.
- Be aware of your surroundings and look around for anyone acting suspiciously at or near the machine before you use it.
- Never help others at the ATM machine.
- Be prepared to make your transaction. Do not stand at the machine figuring out deposits.

### **Parking:**

- Park in well lighted areas and as close to the establishment as possible.
- Make note of where you parked your vehicle.
- Walk with a friend or relative.
- Ask for a security escort to your car if you feel unsafe or it is a late hour.
- Leave with large “friendly” groups.
- Lock your vehicle.
- Keep all valuables, including items you just purchased, out of view. Use your trunk if possible.
- Have your keys in your hand before you leave the store.

### **Parties or Social Gatherings:**

- Plan carefully and well in advance.
- Celebrate responsibly.
- If you drink alcoholic beverages - Always have a designated driver or make arrangements to stay where you are at.
- Avoid celebrating with gunfire at anytime.