

“Crime Time” Holiday Safety Tips



"Be aware of your surroundings at all times"

As the holiday season approaches, malls other retailers, and businesses are more crowded than usual with busy shoppers. Whether you are about to celebrate a holiday in the coming weeks or not, keep the following in mind when going out to shop:

Keep careful track of your bags and other packages. If you leave something behind, it could get stolen or discarded. (Tip: Always lock packages in the trunk of your car. Don't make it a habit to carry packages around)

Be sure not to buy more than you can carry. If packages make it hard for you to walk ask a store employee to help you to your car. **It's best to always shop with a friend, never alone.**

Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pin and scratch the number out. (Tip: Be careful when entering PIN numbers at registers)

Ensure that any children with you know your cell number and a plan in case you should get separated while shopping. Have a central meeting place and review with children who they can turn to for help if they find themselves alone or scared.

Go over “stranger danger” with your children. Safe Strangers are people children can ask for help when they need it. Police and Firefighters are examples of very recognizable “Safe Strangers”

REPORT ANY suspicious activity to 9-1-1. Security escorts are offered by the Sheriff's Office for anyone needing this service. This service provides escorts to businesses during closing hours to ensure personal safety and also to increase officer presence.



**Brunswick County
Sheriff's Office**

Sheriff John W. Ingram V



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