

The Holiday Shopping Season is set to begin this week with the “Black Friday” sales and with the holidays just around the corner, the Delhi Township Police Department would like to share some safety tips to help make your holidays happy and safe.

Safety Tips at Home:

1. Be sure to lock your doors and windows when leaving home, and set your alarm if you have one.
2. Store your gifts away from doors and windows to where they can't be seen especially if you leave home.
3. If you leave your home, leave lights on and keep a radio or television on to make it appear someone is home. Typically turning on a talk radio station works the best because from the exterior of your home it sounds like people are talking inside your home.
4. If you take a long holiday trip, place your home on our vacation watch list. Have some lights activated by an automatic timer. When setting the timers, do not have the lights come on exactly on the hour and have them alternate if possible. Have someone gather your mail and take care of the outside such as snow removal from the driveway and sidewalk. Have the neighbors even use your driveway to park vehicles in while you are gone for long periods of time.
5. It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.
6. Avoid leaving boxes from gifts such as: TV's, Computer's, Video Games, etc. out on the curb for trash pick-up. Take them to a recycling location for discarding. The Township provides recycling dumpsters located at the Delhi Township Senior Center located at 647 Neeb Rd.

Safety Tips for Shopping:

1. Stay alert; be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
2. Park in well-lit parking lots and near an entrance or exit.
3. If at all possible, shop during daylight hours.
4. Coordinate your shopping days with friends or family. There is safety in numbers.
5. Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.

6. Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
7. Prior to shopping, leave all articles of value at home or lock them up in your trunk. Don't leave them lying out in your vehicle for people to see.
8. When leaving your vehicle, make sure all windows are up and doors are locked.
9. Don't carry large amounts of cash on your person. Make your purchases with a check, debit card, or credit card when possible.
10. Do not carry your social security card or birth certificate in your wallet or purse. If you carry a purse, secure it tightly under your arm. Keep wallets secured in the front pants pocket or jacket pocket.
11. If you make several purchases, make several trips back to your vehicle and lock packages in your trunk out of sight. If you have to leave packages on the seat, cover them with a blanket.
12. Watch for people who could be following you. If you feel like someone may be following you, return to the store and notify security or call the police.
13. If you see someone near your vehicle and don't feel safe, return to the store.
14. If you shop with your children, create a safety plan with them just in case you get separated. Make sure they know your cell phone number. Have a central meeting place and review with your children who to seek if they need help; either a store clerk or security guard.
15. Be confident and look people in the eyes. If you do this you are more likely to dissuade an attacker from attacking you. You will be able to give identifying characteristics of the person
16. Put your keys in your hand as you exit the store and approach your vehicle. This will prevent you from wasting time digging around in your purse or pocket trying to find them and it can also be used as a self-defense weapon if needed.

Take a Holiday Inventory

- The holidays are a good time to update—or create—your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.
- Make sure things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice!

By following these safety tips for both in the home and while shopping the Delhi Township Police Department hopes everyone has a safe holiday season.