



Lower Gwynedd Police Department

Community Response Unit

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HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

During the holidays, here are a few tips to keep in mind. Don't be lulled into complacency!

Personal safety when shopping:

- Keep wallets/purses secure at all times; take care, especially when placed in a shopping cart.
- Limit cash/credit cards that you carry with you while shopping.
- Shop with friends or relatives if possible; there IS safety in numbers.
- Remain alert in crowded places. Some places where pickpockets are known to strike are in:
 - Revolving doors,
 - Crowded escalators,
 - Elevators,
 - Store aisles,
 - Public transportation stops
 - Buses, trains, jitneys, etc.
- Visit ATM's only at well-lit and populated locations; visit during daylight hours if possible.
- When utilizing debit or credit card machines, cover the touchpad whenever you enter your PIN code so that no one can see what you enter.

Vehicle safety:

- Park in areas with adequate lighting since it might be after sunset when you return to your car.
- Keep your purse/wallet or other valuables out of view, including shopping bags and purchases.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially the people and vehicles near you in parking lots.
- Stay alert while loading items into or out of the vehicle or arranging cargo stowage. If someone approaches and you feel threatened, get in and lock up until they leave the area; if they loiter, drive away.
- When returning to your vehicle, carry your keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door, and enter as quickly as possible.

Home Safety:

- Use light timers to operate lights and televisions; random timer settings are best and give the appearance that someone is home.
- Inventory your home contents and keep this list updated. In the event of a burglary or insurance claim, this will be invaluable.
- IF you plan to be away from home for an extended period, contact your local law enforcement agency to request patrols of your residence.

Solicitors:

- Ask for permits issued by Lower Gwynedd Township Police when solicitors contact you.
- With the exception of local organizations, door-to-door sales are often fraudulent and should be viewed with skepticism. If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
- It is wise to confine charitable giving to reputable organizations.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.