



CITY OF POST FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

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The Post Falls Police Department wants to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and pass along a few tips to help keep you happy and safe in this time of joy and giving. Christmas is always a very special time of year where we are typically very busy taking care of our daily lives with work, children, school, and those occasional special events, and now we put shopping on top of everything else. During this time of year darkness falls much earlier in the day. All of these factors can cause us to be stressed out, careless, unprepared and in a hurry to make every minute count. As we travel from stop to stop, parking lot to parking lot, it is important to remember some of the basic principles that keep us from being victims of forgetfulness or lack of preparation.

Being aware of your surroundings at all times, taking a friend along when doing your holiday shopping, parking in well-lighted areas, closing all the windows and making sure the vehicle is locked, these are all a good place to start. The next step would be to try not to leave packages, boxes and shopping bags visible through the vehicles windows. When possible lock them in the trunk or place something over them so they are not visible to people walking past your vehicle.

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As you walk from the store to the vehicle, don't get overburdened with packages, always keep one hand free. For the ladies, remember to keep your purse close to your body, not dangling or where you cannot see it. For the men, place your wallet in your front pants pocket. This keeps your valuables where you can keep them under control.

When using credit or debit cards, keep them out of sight or in the palm of your hand before using them. Do not lay them down or hold them out where others can see or photograph them. If you stop at an ATM, make sure no one is around you when you are making your transaction. Keep all of your receipts out of sight as these can contain personal information as well. Do not throw them in the trash as you leave the store.

If you have children with you make sure they know where to get help. Teach your children to go to the store clerk or security guard if they get separated from you. If there is an emergency, they need to know they can call 911 to contact the Police and or Emergency Medical Services.

These are some of the more obvious areas shoppers need to remember. The Post Falls Police Department would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that all of the surrounding communities have had more burglaries this year than in the past. For the month of November, Post Falls had 83 burglary calls which included autos, residential and business's. In an effort to help all law enforcement agencies, we ask that you pay close attention to what is happening in your neighborhoods; use your window coverings and inside and outside lights when necessary in your homes. One area we tend to forget, which can lead people to watch our neighborhoods is your trash and trash pickup. When driving through a neighborhood on trash day, you can see new

items people are placing in their homes by what is left on the curb for the garbage man. Empty boxes and wrappers, tell everyone when we get new computers, big screen TV's and so on. We encourage you to take the time to break the boxes down and place them in a recycle bin or inside the trash receptacle.

As we move deeper into the holiday season; don't let the holiday spirit move you to leave your home, your vehicle and your wallet open to opportunistic thieves. Crime and opportunity run hand-in-hand for some and we can help stop their efforts by doing our part. Remember that not all people are bad, we just have some of the good ones making poor decisions.

If you have any information, questions or comments you may contact the Post Falls Police Department at (208) 773-3517 or contact the Police Department through our website www.postfallspolice.com.

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