

Shopping Safety Tips

The holiday shopping season is upon us. The Tullahoma Police Department would like to take the opportunity to remind citizens and visitors of a few crime prevention and safety tips to make the shopping experience enjoyable and safe.

1. Don't shop alone, take a friend or relative with you.
2. Take only the cash or credit cards you believe you will need. Make sure you have the information available to notify the bank or credit card company in the event of loss or theft. Keep cash, credit cards, and ID in a front pants pocket whenever possible.
3. Keep close control on your purse or wallet. Do not leave your purse unattended or open in a shopping cart.
4. When paying for a purchase, do not "flash" large amounts of cash. Use your body to shield your credit card information and any personal data. The availability of camera phones makes it too easy to capture credit card or driver's license information for retrieval later.
5. Don't carry so many packages that you can not keep up with what you have.
6. Park your vehicle in a well lit area and survey the area for suspicious vehicles or people before exiting your vehicle. Make sure your windows are rolled up and the vehicle is locked. Any items of value should be placed in the trunk or out of sight.
7. When walking to your car have your keys out and available. Place your packages in the trunk or out of sight before going to your next destination. Make sure your doors are still locked and look in your vehicle before entering it. Once in your vehicle immediately lock the doors.
8. Above all, be aware of your surroundings. Notify store security or local law enforcement if you feel you are being followed or if you observe activity that does not appear "right".
9. Be cautious of strangers that offer you products or try to engage you in long conversation, do not be distracted.
10. If you are concerned about a situation, please notify store security or the Tullahoma Police Department at **911** for emergencies, or **455-3411** for non emergencies. Please provide as much information as possible as to vehicle descriptions, license tags, and suspicious people.
11. Uniformed officers of the Tullahoma Police Department operate clearly marked and identifiable vehicles and wear a complete uniform with badge and name plate. Although no recent reports have been received of law enforcement impersonators, any driver that is concerned about a vehicle attempting to make a traffic stop, consider the following:
 - a. Continue to drive the speed limit to a well lit, open business where other people are present, or
 - b. Continue to drive the speed limit and go directly to the Tullahoma Police Department at 201 W. Grundy Street, or
 - c. Continue to drive the speed limit and telephone the Communications Center by either **911** or **455-3411**. The dispatcher can use the radio communications to confirm if an officer is trying to stop you, or they can maintain communication with you and have officers dispatched to intercept you and the questionable vehicle.

The Tullahoma Police Department wishes you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.