

It's that time again!



We at the Alabaster Police Department want to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday season. As you find time to shop, please be mindful of the following safety tips. While these steps don't guarantee

you will not become the victim of crime, they will hopefully reduce your chances of falling prey to a criminal.

Shopping at Stores:

- * Be aware of your surroundings. Look for suspicious persons, etc. when you are in any area.
- * Always park in well-lit areas and shop in pairs.
- * Don't leave phones, purses, CD cases, or any other item of value in your parked car where they can be seen. Always conceal these items.
- * Limit the amount of valuables you carry to minimize potential loss.
- * Make sure purses and wallets are secure on your person and you are aware of their location at all times.
- * Keep the amount of available cash you have at a minimum or separate it into different pockets or locations on or about your person. This way all of it is not lost if your purse or wallet is misplaced or stolen.
- * Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- * Do not leave packages in your car and return to stores. If you are unable to do this, make sure you conceal the items in your car where they can't be seen. **KEEP YOUR VEHICLE DOORS LOCKED AT ALL TIMES!**
- * Reduce distractions, such as using a cell phone, while walking to your car.
- * Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con-artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Child Safety Tips While Shopping:

- * Always supervise your children.
- * Accompany your child to the restroom. If you feel your child is responsible enough to go inside the restroom alone, make sure you wait outside the door for your child to return.
- * Never dress your child in clothing with their names on them. This type of clothing allows predators to call your child by name, and therefore the child might not recognize them as a "stranger."
- * If you do allow your children to walk around the store without you, make sure they have a friend with them. Pick a meeting place and have your children frequently check-in with you in person at the desired location.
- * Teach your children what to do if they become separated from you while shopping. They should be able to identify police officers, security officers, and store personnel who can help them find their parents. Make sure they know to stay where they are when they first realize they are lost, and they should never leave the store to look for your car.



REMEMBER...

Report suspicious people or activity to law enforcement ***immediately!***

**Alabaster Police Department
205-663-7401
(Call 911 for Emergency)**

Home Safety Tips While Away:

- * Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers should be inscribed with an identifying number unique to its owner (do not use your social security number).
- * Create an up-to-date home inventory including make, model, serial numbers, other detailed descriptions, and photographs of items of value (including jewelry). This inventory should be kept somewhere safe, out of the house.
- * At least two light timers should be set to turn the lights and TV on and off in a logical sequence when away for an extended time period to give the appearance that someone is home.
- * Mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up should be made when you are away from home for a period of time.
- * Ask a trusted neighbor to tend the yard and watch your home when you are away, or have a trusted friend or relative house-sit in your absence.
- * Make sure all doors and windows are locked when you leave, even if you have an alarm system.
- * Make sure you lock the doors of any vehicles left at the residence.

