



For Immediate Release
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Crime Prevention Tip of the Month: Holiday Safety

Harrisonburg, VA – As part of the Crime Prevention initiative for the Harrisonburg Police Department, monthly tips are provided in an effort to reduce crime with a specific topic highlighted each month. As we begin to gear up for this holiday season, HPD encourages citizens make safety a priority. When we make the extra effort to ensure our belongings are secure and the decisions we make are with ourselves and each other in mind, there is great reduction in crime and injury. HPD reminds those who will be traveling, shopping, and spending time with loved ones to keep these tips in mind this holiday season:

- When shopping, avoid carrying a large amount of cash and try to use debit or credit cards when possible.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings. This time of year many criminals will attempt to scam victims by distracting them and other methods in an attempt to deprive you of belongings and money.
- Teach children to stay close when shopping and to find a store clerk if separated from you. If old enough, make sure children know their full name and telephone number to give to police or store employees.
- If visiting multiple stores, ensure your belongings are covered and locked in your vehicle where they will not be seen by those passing by. If you have time, write your driver's license number or other identifying numeric on expensive packages so that if they are stolen and later recovered police can return your property to you.
- If you are expecting a package in the mail, ensure that you will be home to pick it up, or have a trusted neighbor get it for you so that it is not stolen from your doorstep.

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