



## Community Notification

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Wheat Ridge, CO — FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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### Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

**Wheat Ridge, CO** ~ As the holiday shopping season kicks into full gear, the Wheat Ridge Police Department would like to remind our community members to keep safety in mind as they brave shopping malls and department stores this winter. Here are some helpful tips to keep you safe.

#### Shopping in Stores

- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- When purchasing a gift card, be sure to check that the silver scratch-off area hasn't been tampered with. If that area has already been scratched, don't buy the card. In fact, give the card to store management.
- Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as one time or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites.
- Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit. If you see something, say something.

#### Walking to and From Your Car

- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
- Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.
- Never leave your car running without you in it whether you're warming it up or running into a store. This crime of opportunity is a perfect time for a thief to steal your car.

#### Shopping with Small Children

- If you are shopping with children, make a plan in case you are separated from each other.
- Select a central meeting place.
- Teach them to know they can ask mall personnel or store security employees if they need help.

For more information please contact our Crime Prevention Team at (303) 235-2910.

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*"Exceptional People Providing Exceptional Service"*  
Wheat Ridge Police

