



# Utica Police Department

## Press Release

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### Brief Description of Incident:

Holiday Shopping Safety Reminders: With the approach of the Holidays and in an effort to increase Public Safety, the public is reminded to use caution when shopping and follow these simple safety tips:

1. When you shop, Keep you wallet/purse in hand and do not put it down at any time. It only takes a second's distraction for a thief to steal your cash, cards and Identification.
2. When you leave a store, look around for parties who are watching or following you. They may want your purchase or valuables. Thieves often follow overloaded and inattentive shoppers to take advantage of distractions to steal merchandise.
3. When you put items you purchase in your car, place them in the trunk, cover them with a draw shade if your car has one or carry a blanket to cover them up from prying eyes.
4. Don't leave your car unlocked at any time.
5. Don't leave any valuables like iPod's or music players in plain sight. Also, hide any cables or cases for these items so thieves will not get a hint that you have a music player in your car and try to break in to steal it.
6. If you have to carry cash or credit cards when you shop, invest in a fanny sack or small purse that you can wear around your waist or over your shoulder but under your coat to keep someone from trying to steal them from you.
7. Don't fight with someone who tries to steal items from you. Gifts and cash can be replaced: your physical and emotional well being can not. Don't get hurt over things that can be replaced.