



# **OSWEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS**

During the upcoming holiday season, people are often busy, excited and sometimes a bit careless. We are asking that you take steps to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday season. Here are some suggestions:

### **Be careful when using ATM Machines**

- Use ATM's located in populated areas and be aware of your surroundings.
- Ideally, try to use an ATM during the daylight hours.
- When using an ATM at night, chose a machine in a well lighted area, which is visible to foot and vehicular traffic.
- If anyone appears to be loitering near the ATM, find another machine.

### **When shopping at a Mall or Store**

- Ideally, shop when the Mall is less crowded. Avoid the weekend rush.
- Don't hang your purse or handbag from your shoulder. Keep your purse tucked under your arm, or try not to carry a purse. If possible, wear a fanny pack facing the front of your body. This will allow your hands to be free to carry or hold your child and reduce the possibility of leaving your purse behind or having it stolen.
- Ensure your credit card is returned to you after you complete a purchase.
- Place your checkbook, cash or credit cards in your front pant pockets. Carry only one or two credit cards and a limited amount of cash with you.
- Make a list of your credit cards, their account numbers and the phone numbers to call if a card is lost or stolen. Keep this list at home.
- Avoid carrying large, heavy packages that block your vision and make you a target.
- If necessary, make several trips to your car to deposit packages in your trunk.
- Teach your child what to do in the event you get separated from them. Do not instruct them to walk to the parking lot in an effort to find you.

### **In the Parking Lot**

- Park where there is plenty of light. This not only includes the area around your car, but from the location of your car to the mall or store entrance.

- After parking your car, familiarize yourself with the location to assist in finding it upon your return.
- Ask for a security escort if you feel unsafe.
- Keep your car windows closed and the doors locked at all times.
- When walking through a parking lot, be aware of your surroundings. Walk with authority so as to not look like a victim.
- Use the trunk of your car to store your packages and other valuables in an area, which is out of sight. Valuables would include cd's, loose change clothing etc...
- Have your keys in hand and ready to open the door as you approach your car.
- Utilize only one parking space. This will ensure ample parking for all store patrons and reduce the chance of your car being damaged.
- Do not park in areas designated as "No Parking". This would include, but is not limited to fire lanes, loading areas etc... This will lead to your car being ticketed.