



## HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

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### **CON GAMES OR SCAMS:**

The Holiday season is "prime time" for Con Games and Scams! The Internet has proven to be a popular springboard for criminal minds to generate "easy money making offers" that suck-in people who are either desperate for financial gain, money saving deals such as big discounts on consumer goods or service, or other reasons. Criminals also snag victims thru the use of fliers, the Postal Service, the telephone and so many other ways as can be imagined!

An old but very true adage from many of our grandparents was, "No one will give you something for nothing!" Another was, "Watch out when crossing the street!" (Look for the broader meaning in the second adage).

Research every offer that you receive from the Internet or other media source. Use great thought and caution when you receive any offers for income opportunity. Follow the Grandparent adages, "Watch out when crossing the street!" Don't be a willing victim!

### **HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY:**

This season volunteer members of the Sheriff's Queen Creek Crime Prevention Posse will patrol the Town's malls and shopping centers. The highly trained Posse Members will supplement regular Deputy Sheriff Patrols and enhance the level of support to the community. The following are some safety tips offered for added shopper protection:

#### **TEAM SHOP:**

Consider taking a family member or friend shopping with you. There is Strength in numbers!

#### **PARKING:**

When parking, try to park in a well lighted area. Remember to take your keys, double check to ensure that your windows are rolled up and insure your valuables are concealed and the doors are locked!

## SHOPPING:

If you choose to leave valuable items in your car when shopping, then put the items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them in an inconspicuous manner if already parked. Always remember that someone could be watching you put items under the seat or covering them up and may take advantage of the "opportunity" to burglarize the vehicle the moment you leave! This also applies to the trunk of your car! Never open a trunk, fill it with valuables, close it and then walk away to do more shopping! Plan your shopping and load it only when you are ready to travel away!

SUV and pick-up truck owners should remember that these vehicles are "prime targets by criminals." SUV's do not have trunks and are easier to see in unless the windows are heavily tinted. SUV's are at risk even with dark tint windows because of the criminal's expectation that valuable items may be inside!

## RETURNING TO YOUR VEHICLE:

When returning to your vehicle from shopping, carry your keys in your "correct hand" and be ready to unlock the door and enter as quickly as possible. Scan the area as you approach your vehicle and quickly look inside before entering. Lock your doors once inside.

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

(Crime in Progress) 911

(Crime happened and no suspect or injury) (602) 871-1011

We encourage shoppers to consider our safety recommendations and ask that you contact the Sheriff's Office immediately if you note any suspicious activity or are a victim of crime.