

Shopping Online

- Before surfing the internet, secure your personal computers by updating your security software. Everyone's computer should have anti-virus, anti-spyware, and anti-spam software, as well as a good firewall installed.
- Keep your personal information private and your password secure. Do not respond to requests to "verify" your password or credit card information unless you initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will not contact you in this manner.
- Beware of "bargains" from companies with whom you are unfamiliar—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases. Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- Shop with companies you know and trust. Check for background information if you plan to buy from a new or unfamiliar company.



Personal Safety

Assault, robbery, and "snatching" are crimes that may leave a person feeling violated, confused, and scared. Below are some additional personal safety tips:

- Before leaving your home, make sure your cell phone is charged and your car is in working condition.
- If you typically keep your cell phone in a purse, keep your cell phone on your person in the situation someone does demand your purse.
- Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Let someone know where you are going and what time you may be returning.

***The Yuma County Sheriff's Office
wishes you a safe, happy and
peaceful holiday season.***



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Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



***We can never be too careful,
too prepared or too aware.***



The holiday shopping season is upon us and the Yuma County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone to practice good crime prevention techniques to prevent or minimize the risk of becoming a victim of assault, robbery and vehicle break-ins.

We hope that the tips provided in this brochure will help ensure a safer holiday season. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.



While Shopping

- Be aware of your surroundings and people around you at all times.
- Shop with a friend; there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check, credit or debit card when possible.
- Carry cash and wallets in a front pocket.
- Carry your purse strapped across your body, not hanging on your shoulder.
- Never leave your purse unattended. If possible, carry only your drivers license or identification, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you have to take a phone call or text message while shopping, don't let your guard down and get distracted.

- Avoid overloading yourself with too many packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps. Either make multiple trips to your vehicle or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store. They also make a great weapon, should you need to defend yourself.



Shopping with Children

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Keep children secure in a stroller or shopping cart at all times. Do not allow your children to wander.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach your children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case they become separated from you.
- Teach your children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security.



In Parking Lots

- If shopping late in the day or after dark, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to large vans or trucks, or anything else that limits your visibility.
- Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.
- Watch for people who may be following you. This can occur inside as well outside the store. If you suspect that you are being followed, report it to the store or mall Security.
- When returning to your car, look in and around your car while approaching it and/or before getting in.
- Always lock your doors when you are driving or sitting in your car.
- Do not leave packages or valuables in your car where they can be seen. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.