



# Baltimore County Police Department

## “Holiday Safety Tips for Everyone”

Street criminals look for an easy mark. Not necessarily the oldest or weakest, but the easiest. People who look preoccupied are at a greater risk of becoming a victim. No one consciously invites a robbery, but victims send signals that tell the assailant “I’m an easy target.”

Walking with a fixed up or down gaze, implies preoccupation. Acting distracted is one of the reasons why tourists are often victimized. Stand tall and walk confidently. Show you’re alert by looking from side to side and scanning the area around you.

If someone threatens you with a weapon, give up your purse, wallet, or vehicle without hesitation. Your personal safety is far more important than your possessions. The following lists are crime prevention tips that can be applied not only during the holidays, but also on a day to day basis:

### When Shopping:

- Keep gifts and valuables out of sight in your car. Lock your packages in the trunk.
- At night park in a well-lighted area, and remember where you’ve parked.
- Shop with a friend, especially at night. If you are alone try to walk near other people.
- If you feel uncomfortable walking to your vehicle, ask store security to escort you.
- Lock your doors immediately after entering your vehicle.
- Carry a purse close to your body. Place wallets in your front pants pocket, instead of a back or jacket pocket.
- Have your keys ready to enter your vehicle when you approach it.
- Stay alert and be aware of what is going on around you.

