

### **Shopping**

- Be alert and aware of what's going on around you.
- Never carry large amounts of money. Using debit or credit cards is much safer than carrying a lot of cash. Make sure that you get your card back and that only one credit slip is printed with your charge card - be sure to tear up any carbons.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Never wrap the strap around your body.
- Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, the rear pants pocket is easiest to pick.
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases. When using the public restrooms, use extreme caution – try to avoid putting your purse on hooks or door handles. Don't hang your purse over the back of your chair in a restaurant; keep it on your lap.
- Try to shop with friends or relatives. There is safety in numbers.

### **At Work**

- Do not carry large sums of cash and do not leave money or gifts in your office unless locked.
- Do not announce that you have gone shopping or made purchases public in the office.

### **Secure your car**

- Cars can be an easy target for criminals. Park your car as close to your destination as possible and in a well-lighted area.

## **Cambridge Police Department**



### **Holiday Safety Tips**

- Never leave presents on display in your car.
- When you do your shopping, remember to store your packages in the trunk of the car and not on the back seat.. If you take your packages to the car but plan to return to the store or mall, drive your car to a new location within the parking lot.
- Avoid parking next to vans (especially if they have side-sliding doors), trucks with camper shells or cars with tinted windows.
- Criminals can be on the lookout for unsuspecting shoppers who simply drop their purchases into the trunk and then return to keep shopping.
- When returning to your car (or home), have your keys in your hand, ready to open the door. The few moments you save may keep you from becoming a crime victim.
- Before entering your vehicle, carefully check the front and rear seats and floors for anyone that may be hiding there. Lock your doors immediately after entering the vehicle.

### **At Home**

- Always keep doors and windows locked. Relock your front door immediately upon entering your home.
- If you live in an apartment building, don't buzz in someone who rings your bell until you have verified who he or she is.
- Break down empty gift boxes or cut them up to conceal the receipt of expensive gifts such as computers or plasma and LCD televisions.
- Keep receipts and take photos of expensive presents; these will be useful if you have to deal with police in the event of a burglary and as proof of value for insurance purposes.
- Buy/use only holiday lighting sets and extension cords that have the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) label and are specifically designated for indoor use. Likewise if you plan to use outdoor lighting sets, look for the UL and FM labels on lights designated for outdoor use.
- Utilize an exterior outlet for your outdoor holiday lights.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- If you purchase a real tree, make sure that it has fresh, green needles that aren't easily broken. Keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water.
- Use a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- Keep trees at least three feet away from heat sources, including fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.
- Safely dispose of trees as they become dry and needles begin to drop.