

## Holiday Safety Tips from the Upper Makefield Police Department

### Before you shop:

- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry as this may attract thieves.
- Inform others about where you will be throughout your shopping excursion and let them know what time they should expect you to return.
- If possible, shop with a friend or family member, as there is safety in numbers.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash, use checks or credit cards when possible.



### Parking:

- When parking your vehicle, park as close as possible to the entrances and exits.
- If you have to park in a distant lot, seek a spot that is well lit and well traveled.
- Avoid walking to and from your vehicle alone. If you are not shopping with another person, consider walking near other shoppers in the parking lot.
- When leaving the mall, ask a security guard to escort you.
- As you approach your vehicle, always have your keys ready.



### Shopping:

- If carrying a purse, hold the purse close to your body with the opening facing towards you.
- If walking with another person, the purse should be held between you and the other person.
- When possible, avoid using revolving doors, especially the automatic revolving doors. A thief could grab your purse and escape in the time it takes you to emerge.
- A man should keep his wallet in his front pocket of his pants instead of the back pocket.
- Use bathrooms that are in well-trafficked areas like the food court.
- Avoid darkened hallways and other backroom or concourse areas.
- Always consolidate your purchases into one or two large shopping bags as this will help you keep track of all your purchases.
- Never leave your packages or purse unattended.
- If you have to return to your vehicle to unload your purchases, do not place the items in plain view, place them in the trunk. Also, after placing your packages in your car, consider moving your vehicle to another area of the lot in case a would be thief is watching you.
- Save your most expensive purchases until last, so you can immediately leave and head straight home.

### Child safety while shopping:

- In the malls or stores that you frequent, find out whether they have procedures in place to search for a missing child. Many retailers participate in a program developed by the National Center on Missing and Exploited Children called "Code Adam." This program was named after Adam Walsh, a 6-year-old boy who was tragically killed after being abducted from a shopping mall in 1981.
- Always accompany your child to the bathroom.
- Never use a video arcade or toy store as a babysitter.
- Never leave your child unattended, not even for a moment.
- Be careful when using shopping carts to carrying your children, as numerous children are injured every year due to falls or a tip-over of the carts.

# Upper Makefield *Township*

## ATM use:

- Avoid using an ATM at night.
- If you use an ATM night, select one where there are many people around, that is well lit, that is not secluded in a low visibility area
- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you.
- Try to have a friend accompany you when using an ATM as they can be a set of extra eyes while you complete your transaction.
- Complete your transaction as quickly as possible; do not flaunt your cash.
- Finally, always be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity or persons to security or the police.

