

## Take an Inventory

Make good use of your holiday time. Take an inventory of your property. This is especially good for insurance purposes in case of burglary or fire. Make a video or take photos of your items and make a list of these valuable items. You should list such things as TV's, DVD players, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, jewelry, silver, power tools, home-office equipment, sporting equipment, and all other electronics. There are now apps out that users can subscribe to that will allow them to take pictures of their personal belongings, and enter information on the items and will store it securely.



**STAY SAFE**  
&  
**Have a Happy Holiday**

*Merry Christmas*

Shopping & Gift List

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**HOLIDAY  
SAFETY**

**LENOIR  
POLICE**  
NORTH CAROLINA

*Office of the Chief  
R. Scott Brown*

This holiday season, protect yourself, your family, and your property against criminals wishing to do you harm. Criminals have a “desire” to commit crimes against those who are not aware of what is going on around them. The holidays are an opportune time for a criminal to commit these offenses. Know your surroundings and don’t become a “target”. It’s up to YOU to make sure that a criminal does not have the “opportunity” to take advantage of you and your family.

## USE COMMON SENSE STAY CALM

### WHILE SHOPPING

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- 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.
- If possible, carry only your drivers license, personal checks, or necessary credit or debit cards.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. You could risk injury from a would-be purse snatcher. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry wallets in a back pocket. It should be placed in a front pocket for safety.
- Be alert, criminals look for the “high dollar store” shopping bags with your purchases. When possible, slip bags/purchases in a plain nondescript bag.
- Watch purchases while eating in mall food courts,; bags as well as purses can easily be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost as well as what to do if a “stranger” should try and take them.
  - Try not to shop until the store closes. Remember, fewer people are present at this time.
  - Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store. They also make a great weapon, should you need to defend yourself.

- Don’t overburden yourself with too many packages. This jeopardizes your safety while walking to your vehicle. Either make multiple trips to your vehicle or have your packages sent to package pick-up where you may retrieve them in a well-lit and heavily populated area.
- If you do not return to your vehicle to unload packages and continue shopping, place your purchases in the trunk. Be observant of anyone watching, and if possible, move the vehicle to another parking space to deter a burglary of your vehicle.



### IN PARKING LOTS

- Shop early and leave early to avoid evening darkness.
- Park in a high visibility area and check for lighting in case you leave during the hours of darkness.
- DO NOT park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows. Waiting assailants can be obscured from view upon your return.
- Before shopping, lock all your valuables in the truck prior to parking in the parking lot.
- Leave the store with a group of people, not alone.
- Ask the Security Officer to escort you to your vehicle if you are uncomfortable.
- 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 as outside the store. If you suspect that you are being followed, report it to the store or mall Security. Report it immediately.

### AT HOME

- Keep the outside of your home well-lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don’t display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don’t advertise gifts received by the boxes left for trash collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear bag.
- Also do not place on Facebook that you will be out of the house for parties or vacation and once gifts are opened do not place pictures of them on Facebook.



### IF YOU ARE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, collect mail, park in the drive way, etc.
- Try to remember to have the mail and newspaper deliveries stopped. If it piles up, it’s a sure sign your gone. Because emergencies may occur, this is not always possible. Rely on friends and neighbors to help.

