



CITY OF CLEARWATER

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CLEARWATER POLICE FOCUSING ON SHOPPER SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY

WHO: Clearwater Police Department

WHAT: Operation Safe Holiday (Part II)

WHEN: November 26 -29, 2008

WHERE: High-volume shopping areas, including Countryside & Clearwater Malls

WHY: Clearwater Police will increase patrols around local malls in anticipation of additional traffic and crowds for the holiday shopping weekend. There will be a strong police presence at the Clearwater and Countryside Mall areas.

Officers will focus on preventing car burglaries and other crimes of opportunity, which typically increase during the holiday shopping season.

The Clearwater Police Department offers a few tips for a safe shopping venture:

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you shop at night, don't go alone.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and stay alert. If you see someone acting suspiciously, contact police or mall security.
- Beware of strangers approaching you. This time of year, con artists may try to distract you while they try to take your money or belongings.
- Make sure car windows and doors are locked. Don't leave valuables or shopping bags in plain view.
- Be careful if you carry a purse or wallet. These are prime targets for criminals in crowded areas. Keep your purse tucked close to your body and keep wallets in an inside jacket pocket.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Use a check or credit card.
- Don't overload yourself with packages. You need clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

