

HOLIDAY SAFETY



The holidays are a special time of the year. It is also a time when individuals need to be alert to the possibility of crime. The West Fargo Police Department encourages individuals to take simple precautions to ensure a happy and safe holiday. Please share these safety tips with your family, friends and neighbors.

SHOPPING

WHILE YOU ARE OUT

- Park in a well-lit space and be sure to lock the car, close the windows and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Walk confidently with your head up. Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible. When using credit cards, make sure that only one credit slip is printed. Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook.
- Dress down while shopping instead of wearing expensive clothing and jewelry.
- Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or wallet inside a coat or front pants pocket.
- Shopping with kids? Designate a central location to meet if you get separated. Teach them they can go to security or store personnel for help.
- Never leave your car running while you run inside - even if only for a minute.
- Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.
- Pay attention to people walking in front of and behind you. Be particularly observant when you are in crowded areas.
- Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- Save all receipts. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.

ONLINE

- Shop online with companies you know and trust. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
- Use secure websites for purchases, Look for the icon of a locked padlock at the bottom of the screen or "https" in the URL address.
- Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as onetime or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites.
- Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases.

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY



Going back to school is an exciting time of the year. It is also a time to review safety tips. The West Fargo Police Department encourages individuals to take simple precautions to ensure a happy and safe back to school season. Please share these safety tips with your family, friends and neighbors.



FOR DRIVERS

- Stop and yield to pedestrians crossing at a crosswalk or intersection.
- Never go around a school bus that has its lights activated and stop sign out.
- Always stop for a crossing guard holding up a stop sign.
- Take extra care to look out for children.
- Slow down in school zones.
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
- Allow more time. As a new school year begins allow yourself more time to get where you are going until you can figure out the effects of increased traffic.
- Talk with teen drivers. Remind your teen drivers about the importance of being extra careful in and around school zones.



FOR STUDENTS

- Never cross the street while using an electronic device.
- Never walk while texting. If you need to respond to a text, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk.
- Look left, right, then left again before crossing the street.
- Only cross the street at designated crosswalks.
- Do not wear earbuds while walking across the street and stay alert.
- Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike.
- If you ride a school bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off the bus, and riding the bus.

REMEMBER: SLOW DOWN. STAY ALERT.