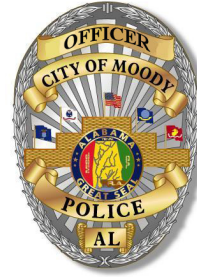


MOODY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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BOBBY N. BREED, CHIEF OF POLICE

Media Release from Moody Police Department 12-08-09

The holiday season is here again and the Moody Police Department wants yours to be a safe and enjoyable one. According to the Alabama Fusion Center, reports of shoppers being robbed or otherwise victimized are commonplace during the season.

Being stressed and rushed leads to not being as aware of your surroundings as you normally would; this can make you an easier target which is what the criminals want.

The following pointers were provided by the Montgomery Police Department. Following these tips can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim during the holiday season. The Moody Police Department wishes you a happy holiday season and remember, don't make it easy for the bad guys!

- Use debit or credit cards if possible, or carry only enough money to pay for your errands. If carrying large amounts of money, separate the money into amounts needed and place them in different pockets.
- Be extremely careful using ATM machines. Use them in populated places and constantly pay attention to what is going on around you.
- If you have to carry a purse, carry it close to your body and always zipped.
- Park as close as possible to the mall or shopping center.
- Park in a well-lit location.
- Have your keys ready to open your vehicle before you exit the mall or shopping center.
- Remember exactly where you parked your vehicle.
- Avoid shopping until you are exhausted. You are more alert when you are less tired.
- When hurried or in a crowded shop, make sure you get all forms of identification and credit cards returned to you before leaving.
- Use an escort or mall security if you have too many packages or if you are leaving the mall after closing.
- Keep gifts or packages out of plain view inside your vehicle.
- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows of your residence.
- After opening gifts, break down the boxes of expensive electronics and high-end stores and put them in plastic bags to hide the fact you have valuable items in your home.