



# MIAMI TOWNSHIP

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

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**Black Friday shoppers need to stay alert**

*Biggest shopping day of the year is a favorite for thieves*

The National Retail Federation (NRF) estimates 115-million people nationwide will go shopping on Black Friday this year. While the lure of online shopping remains strong, many people say it is a holiday tradition to venture out to the shopping malls during the long Thanksgiving holiday. Unfortunately, it is also a convenient time for thieves who prey on busy shoppers, so the Miami Township Police Department plans to have extra patrols on duty this holiday season.

“The most important thing you can do to be safe is be aware of your surroundings,” Capt. John Magill, said. “Make sure you look around in the parking lot for anything suspicious and keep your packages close to you at all times.”

Miami Township police want everyone to have a safe and happy holiday experience. Officers have put together the following list of safety tips to help shoppers stay safe. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Det. Paul Nienhaus at (937) 433-2301.

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Make your holiday shopping experience a safe one by:

- Be aware of your environment and what is going on around you. Don't talk on the cell phone while driving or walking to and from your car.
- Lock doors and windows before you leave your home.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Park in well-lit areas and keep car doors locked, even at home!
- Keep valuable items in the trunk or out of sight (take them home when possible).
- When at the bank or ATM, pay attention to what is around you and check the ATM for tampering or evidence of a skimming device.
- Shop with friends and family when possible.

Protect your property by:

- Be sure your personal computer has up-to-date security software.
- Do not respond to requests to 'verify' your passwords.
- Use secure websites for your purchases.
- Anyone asking you to obtain 'gift cards' or 'store cards' unsolicited by phone or online is very likely a scam.
- Don't leave delivered packages sitting visibly on your porch for extended periods of time. Have a friend or neighbor secure them for you if necessary.

For more information, please contact Det. Paul Nienhaus at (937) 433-2301.

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