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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOLIDAY SHOPPING REMINDERS
Pocatello Police Remind Shoppers to be Safe

The Pocatello Police Department is reminding everyone to be alert during this holiday shopping season. At the top of the list, always lock your car and take your keys and purse. Do not leave any valuables visible in your vehicle. Instead, lock them in the trunk.

When shopping after dark, park in an area of the parking lot that has good lighting. Shop with a friend or family member so you are not alone at night. Shop with your cell phone handy or shop with someone who has a cell phone for quick access to 911 should an emergency arise.

Be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious people to the police. It is better to have the police check it out, than to find out later that you were the potential victim or witness to a crime. DO NOT confront suspicious persons, report them to the police.

Do not leave your purse or wallet unattended, even for a second. Criminals work in pairs and may try to distract you to grab your purse or wallet. Be careful with credit and debit cards. Who has your card and for how long? Check your receipts and keep them with you.

Try not to carry numerous packages and bags with you. Consider making a couple of trips to your car, if it is safe, and lock your items in the trunk. You do not want to appear as a "big spender" who has a lot of cash and credit cards.

"I know this sounds a bit scary," said Lieutenant Paul Manning. "However, everyone can have a safe and happy shopping experience using these basic precautions and common sense." For more information, contact the Pocatello Police Community Services Division at 234-6117.

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