

Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety



Nature: Holiday Safety

Location: Throughout the City

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Complete by: L. Donaghy

Approved by: Sgt. M English

In the past several years during the holiday season the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety has experienced multiple incidents of “Thefts from Motor Vehicles” and “Thefts of Wallets and Purses.” The majority of “Thefts from Motor Vehicles” occur in parking lots mostly during the daytime hours. The majority of “Thefts of Wallets and Purses” usually occur inside retail establishments. The following is a list of suggestions you can use to protect yourself and your property during the holiday season.

Frauds/Identity Theft

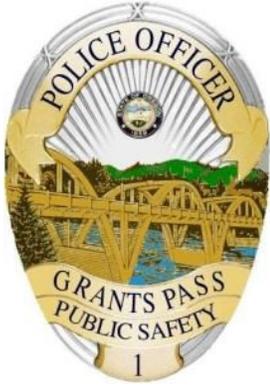
Here are some tips in order to diminish the likelihood of becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft.

- Do not give personal information over the phone, text or email. If that information is needed, go down to the business and take care of it there.
- Be aware of others nearby when entering your personal identification number at an automated teller.
- Get a credit report annually to check for errors.
- Shred charge receipts, bank statements, credit offers and expired credit cards.
- Have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up mail and packages that are delivered to your residence.

Scams

If you are solicited to donate money to other causes, take these precautions to verify the validity of the request.

- Get a contact number for the business or entity that is requesting the donation. Call back at a later time to verify that they are indeed asking for donations, how and where the funds will be used and if they have a charitable registration number. Ask that written information regarding the donation request be sent to you.
- If the donation is an out of the area business or entity, verify with the Attorney Generals Office or Secretary of State’s Office and on the internet.
- Do not send cash in the mail or give it in person. Write a check and put on the check notes what it is for.



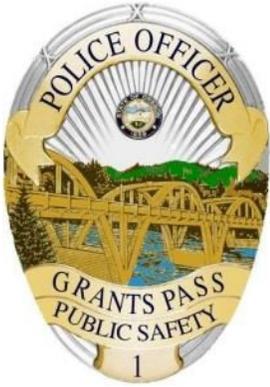
Thefts

In order to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim of theft, you should:

- Carry only what is needed.
- Keep a list of your credit card and debit card information in a safe place at home.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Purses or handbags should be closed and carried close to your body with your arm loosely around it.
- Carry your wallet in a pocket or bag that you have with you.
- If you are unable to carry your purse on you, use the baby seat straps in the cart to tie your purse down. Keep your purse closed or zippered shut to limit easy access to its contents.
- Do not put personal identification numbers, social security cards or birth certificates in your wallet or purse.
- Do not leave your purse or wallet unattended, even for a moment.
- If your purse or wallet is stolen, contact the police department and file a report. Contact your credit card and bank to report the items stolen. Monitor your accounts so you don't become a victim of fraud.

Vehicle Security

- At night, park in well lit areas close to your residence or the building you are visiting.
- Always lock your doors and roll up your windows completely after parking your vehicle.
- Never leave valuables visible in your vehicle. If possible, lock the valuables in your trunk.
- If you have a vehicle alarm system, make sure you use it.



Personal Safety

- Make sure someone close to you knows where you are going and when you will return.
- Avoid dark, deserted routes, even if they are the shortest.
- Carry a little extra money for emergency telephone or transportation use.
- When possible, travel with friends or relatives.
- Hold your purse close to your body, don't dangle it.
- If you put your purse in a shopping cart, secure it to the shopping cart and keep it zipped up.
- Don't overburden yourself carrying packages or groceries.
- Have your key in hand when you approach your vehicle or your residence.
- Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Carry a cellular phone or pepper spray if possible.
- If someone attacks you, scream, kick, hit, bite, scratch, etc., to do what it takes to get away.
- Get the best description you can and call 9-1-1.

If you have any further questions or would like a presentation, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.