

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Oh my! Next Friday is Black Friday!

Glendale, Ariz. – Where did the year go so fast? It’s already beginning to look a lot like the holiday shopping season! Are you ready? We have all seen the commercials, and your mailboxes are probably full of flyers! Black Friday is quickly approaching. Maybe you are already planning your routes and favorite stores to hit to get the best deals in town and grab that photo with Santa! Can you guess who else is planning their Black Friday experience? That would be your local bad elves, aka thieves! You can be assured the Glendale Police Department will be out on Black Friday and throughout the holiday shopping season diligently working to spot them and stop them from taking that new LED TV and Apple Watch you just bought and placing them under their Christmas tree!

We also want you to be prepared knowing tips on how you can prevent those bad elves from spoiling your holiday celebrations. The Glendale Police Department wants everyone to be alert, patient and mindful of safety. The holidays can be a stressful and busy time. We have all seen Christmas Vacation and know what it can be like sometimes! However, it can also be a special, wonderful time with family and friends. Let us offer some crime prevention tips to help keep the holidays safe and enjoyable for you and your entire family!

Holiday Safety Shopping Tips

- Lock packages and other valuables in the trunk before you park and never after you park. Those bad elves may be watching not far away.
- Don’t try to be like a super hero and overload yourself carrying lots of packages. You will make yourself an easy target for bad elves.

- Be stealthy! Especially, in large shopping centers like malls. Once you get two or three packages, take them to your car and secure them in the trunk. Next, get in the car and drive to a different location in the parking lot, so it appears as if you are leaving. Reenter the shopping mall in a different location.
- Shop during daylight hours. If possible, and especially at night, shop in groups of two or more. Make it a fun girls' or guys' day out! Bad elves are more likely to approach people who are alone.
- If you are elderly and alone, ask for an escort to your vehicle. There are employees eager to help you.
- If you have to shop at night, park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances.
- This is one simple tip most frequently forgotten! Don't forget to LOCK your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Carry only the debit or credit cards you will need or use Apple Pay on your phone. Don't carry large sums of cash.
- Carry purses next to your body with the purse flap against you. Carry wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Be aware of your surroundings, walk confidently like a super hero and look people in the eye. Bad elves are looking for people who are not paying attention and are distracted from their purse, wallet or packages.
- Don't hesitate to notify store security or police if you see suspicious activity or someone that looks like a suspicious bad elf.
- If you are a victim of a crime, call **911** to report it police immediately.

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**Spanish translation available*

*“The Glendale Police Department’s mission
is to protect the lives and property of the people we serve.”*

*Glendale Police Department
a proud recipient of CALEA National Accreditation since 2000*