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HOBBS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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News Release Holiday Security Tips

November 19, 2009 – The holiday season is approaching and it can be one of the highest crime periods of the year, specifically theft crimes. Hobbs Police Department encourages citizens to take the following precautions as you prepare and shop for the upcoming holiday season.

Shopping

- Consider carrying your identification, bank cards and/or money in pockets rather than in a purse. If you do carry a purse or bag, carry it close to your body at all times. Do not leave purses unattended in shopping carts.
- Carry only small amounts of cash.
- Be very careful when using ATM machines. Pay close attention to what is going on around you.
- Always lock your vehicle when you leave it unattended.
- Park in well-lit areas when dark and avoid parking next to large vehicles, bushes or anything that can conceal a criminal wanting to break into a vehicle or steal something from you.
- Make a mental note where you parked and have the keys ready when you approach your vehicle. Always check your back seat prior to getting into your vehicle.
- Be watchful for suspicious persons. Be alert to individuals who follow you or watch you place items in your vehicle. Get a good description and report all suspicious activity or persons to police.
- For ladies carrying purses, do not leave purses in shopping carts while placing packages or bags in your vehicle.
- Lock all packages and valuables in vehicle trunks. Do not leave any items in plain view inside a vehicle.

At Home

- Keep gifts hidden from view through outside windows. (items that may be under a tree)
- Always lock all doors and windows when leaving your home.
- When leaving your home unattended, make sure a light or two is on during evening hours. Motion activated lights are good for additional security.
- When away, stop delivery of newspaper and mail until you return.
- Never open your door to someone you don't know.
- When arriving home, always be alert for anything unusual. If you do not feel comfortable going into your home, leave and call Hobbs Police Department.

If you have any concerns about safety or security during the holiday season, please feel free to contact the Hobbs Police Department. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Officer Mike Stone
Public Information Officer
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